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Chretien, Keating Arrive for APEC Summit

*OW1611115195 Tokyo KYODO in English
1108 GMT 16 Nov 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Osaka, Nov. 16 KYODO — Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien and Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating arrived in Osaka on Thursday [16 November] afternoon to attend an informal summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum Sunday.

Other leaders of the grouping will arrive Friday and Saturday.

APEC is made up of Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, South Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, the United States and Japan.

ROK President Kim Yong-sam Arrives for Summit

*SK1711051495 Seoul YONHAP in English
0503 GMT 17 Nov 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Osaka, Nov. 17 (YONHAP) — South Korean President Kim Yong-sam arrived here Friday to attend the summit meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC).

Upon arrival at Kansai International Airport aboard a special air force plane, President Kim headed for Royal Hotel where he will be staying for the APEC meeting. In the afternoon, Kim is scheduled to hold a summit with Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating to discuss regional issues and ways for increasing bilateral economic cooperation.

The Korean leader and his wife, First Lady Son Myong-sun, are slated to attend a reception at Miyako Hotel Friday afternoon, with some 1,000 Japan-residing Koreans scheduled to attend. They are to stay here for four days. [passages omitted]

Malaysian Minister Downplays Clinton Absence

*BK1611132895 Kuala Lumpur RTM Television
Network 1 in Malay 1200 GMT 16 Nov 95*

[Interview with Rafidah Aziz, Malaysian minister of international trade and industry, by RTM correspondent Zulkifli Salleh in Osaka — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Salleh] Here we have Datuk Sri Rafidah Aziz, minister of international trade and industry. Welcome to the program.

[Aziz] Thank you.

[Salleh] Thank you for coming on our main evening news program for this live broadcast. What do you think of the Action Agenda agreement reached today?

[Aziz] The agreement was reached unanimously. Malaysia agreed with the Osaka Action Agenda because it manages to meet several conditions we laid down earlier. One of them is that whatever decision APEC [Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation] adopts should be flexible and voluntary. If the two requirements are met, we will give our support.

[Salleh] As we all know, U.S. President Clinton cannot attend the meeting. What do you think of this?

[Aziz] This is obviously an internal U.S. issue that is getting serious, and this explains why he is unable to attend the meeting. Despite his absence, however, we have finished our work and discussed many issues. I believe his absence will not affect the meeting.

Now I want to state that in our agreement with the Action Agenda, there are a few things that we want to emphasize. First, while we were talking about trade liberalization, we also stressed the importance of economic and technical cooperation. We believe the APEC countries can do much in economic cooperation. We also stressed that while we talk about trade and market liberalization, we must not forget that it must be carried out in accordance with each country's capability and pace and without being forced. Besides, existing economic programs must continue because they will benefit our private sector.

[Salleh] What do you think of the Bogor Declaration? Is it possible to achieve trade liberalization by 2020?

[Aziz] It is obvious now that 2020 or 2010 is just an indicative deadline [preceding two words in English]. It will only serve as a means to move toward a certain deadline and it will not commit or force any country to comply with the deadline. In other words, if we can meet the deadline, it is fine. If we cannot do it due to our own problems, it is also fine. Malaysia, like other countries, indeed wants to reduce trade restrictions and liberalize our trading system. We will do it in accordance with our capability and pace.

[Salleh] One more question. What is Malaysia's stand on the issue of financial services liberalization?

[Aziz] Even though the Action Agenda mentions the liberalization of the financial services sector, we must remember the fact that our country is committed to the Uruguay Round under the World Trade Organization. We have explained that we will not go beyond our commitment to the Uruguay Round. Therefore, financial sector liberalization will be based on our capability and readiness. This is our requirement that was accepted by today's meeting.

[Salleh] Thank you. That is all from Osaka and now we return to Angkasa Puri [RTM studio in Kuala Lumpur].

Goh Chok Tong 'Understands' Clinton Absence

BK1611140195 Singapore Radio Corporation of Singapore in English 1300 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong says President Clinton's absence at the APEC [Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation] will be felt, but he fully understands the reason why the U.S. leader cannot go. Responding to queries from the media, Mr. Goh said he welcomes the chance to meet U.S. Vice President Al Gore.

Proposal for APEC Security Role Criticized

LD1611144095 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 1200 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] [passage omitted] Australia and Japan have rejected a proposal by American Defence Secretary William Perry for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum [APEC] to adopt a security dimension. Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans says APEC has worked as well as it has because its brief was wholly focused on economic cooperation, trade and investment liberalization. Senator Evans says if the agenda is mixed with security and political issues it would create all sorts of difficulties that may threaten the coherence of the organization. [passage omitted] In a Japanese newspaper interview, Mr. Perry suggested that if APEC was expanded to include security issues it could act as a foundation for building mutual confidence in Asia.

PRC Agrees to Compromise on Nondiscrimination

OW1611090895 Tokyo KYODO in English 0835 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Osaka, Nov. 16 KYODO — China has agreed to a compromise wording on the problem of nondiscrimination among the 18 members of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum but does not regard the issue as solved in direct relations with the United States, a senior Chinese official said Thursday.

"As a matter of fact, that call for nondiscrimination has already been resolved," said Long Yongtu, assistant minister of foreign trade and economic cooperation.

The matter, one of the remaining sticky issues in finalizing an action agenda for trade and investment liberalization in the Asia-Pacific region at the ongoing APEC meet in Osaka, was solved in senior officials' talks Wednesday, he said.

The dispute over nondiscrimination is basically a confrontation between Washington and Beijing over whether most-favored-nation (MFN) status should be guaranteed for all APEC members.

China wanted the principle included since it has faced strict screening by the U.S. for the annual renewal of its MFN trade status, mainly over human rights issues.

Long said the compromise wording that all APEC members will "apply or endeavor to apply the principle of nondiscrimination" is acceptable to China, although it does not "fully or appropriately reflect China's position."

He said China agreed to that version because it felt it is important to have a consensus to promote cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region and to make the APEC dialogue a success.

The APEC ministers were earlier reported to have considered dropping the nondiscrimination principle from the action agenda.

He said, however, that for China the MFN issue is not resolved "in practice" since the wording does not force the U.S. to unconditionally grant MFN to all APEC members.

Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen called on the U.S. in ministerial APEC talks in the morning to make further efforts to find a permanent solution, Long said.

He said Qian and Foreign Trade Minister Wu Yi stressed in the talks that China will actively participate in the APEC process, while seeking flexibility in implementing trade liberalization reflecting the different levels of development of member economies.

Noting, though, that all sides have agreed on a compromise version on flexibility, he said, "I believe that there will be several different interpretations of what was agreed upon."

He hailed a U.S. memo on China's bid to join the World Trade Organization (WTO), handed over during a visit by Deputy U.S. Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky to Beijing earlier this month, saying it "contains a lot of flexibility" and constitutes a very positive step.

China withdrew from the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade after the communists came to power in 1949 but applied in 1986 for reentry into the body, which was meanwhile succeeded by the WTO.

Long said China hopes that Trade Minister Wu and U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor will make good progress on the matter in bilateral talks scheduled for Saturday afternoon.

Taipei Minister Views Ties With PRC, Japan

OW1711120395 Tokyo NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN in Japanese 15 Nov 95 Evening Edition p 1

[Report on interview with Chiang Ping-kun, Taiwan minister of economic affairs, by NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN in Osaka; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] Chiang Ping-kun, Taiwanese minister of economic affairs (equivalent to Japanese minister of international trade and industry), granted an interview to NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN in Osaka. Regarding Taiwan-PRC relations which have become strained ever since President Li Teng-hui's visit to the United States, Chiang indicated that Taiwan intends to place emphasis on economic exchanges with China, saying: "For Taiwanese firms, investment in the PRC is becoming their second lifeline." Regarding Taiwan's objective in sending Ku Chen-fu, chairman of the Strait Exchange Foundation, as its representative in the informal summit meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum, Chiang indicated Taiwan plans to continue sending influential figures from the government and private sectors to APEC meetings, saying: "This was intended to put an end to the traditional practice of restricting [our representation] to an economic minister."

On Taiwan's relationship with Japan, Chiang stressed that during his stay in Japan, he will meet Ryutaro Hashimoto, deputy prime minister and concurrently minister of international trade and industry, and seek Japan's active support for Taiwan's bid for membership in the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Regarding the background of Taiwan's decision to send Ku Chen-fu to the informal APEC summit, Chiang explained: "It would have been better if Hsu Li-te, vice president of the Executive Yuan, could have attended the summit, but this plan was crushed. I would qualify to attend the summit as an economic minister, but that would mean Taiwan sending an official who is one step lower (in rank) than the chairman of the Council for Economic Planning and Development (whom Taiwan has sent to summits so far)." In regard to views that Taiwan chose to send Ku in a bid to improve relations with China, Chiang said: "That may be how it has turned out, but the point is that Taiwan tried to choose a person who could exchange opinions with the world's leaders from a broader point of view."

Regarding China, Chiang gave high appraisal saying: "China is a very large market. It is rich in personnel resources. The people there are very hard workers. China is also trying to improve its social and manufacturing infrastructure." On the other hand, Chiang urged that China should promote transparency and reform of its economic system, saying: "There are problems in that the system there cannot keep up [with current developments]."

Taipei Rules Out PRC Contacts at APEC

OW1611115995 Tokyo KYODO in English 1134 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Osaka, Nov. 16 KYODO — Taiwan adamantly dismissed speculation Thursday [16 November] that Taipei representatives might meet with Chinese officials at Osaka meetings of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum in an effort to resume bilateral dialogue.

"We had no contacts with the Chinese delegation, whether officially or unofficially, the answer is no," Taiwan's Deputy Economics Minister Sheu Ke-sheng told reporters when asked whether Taipei is sounding out ways to mend severely strained ties.

China postponed indefinitely a high-level meeting between Wang Daohan, chairman of its semiofficial Association for Relations Across the taiwan Straits (ARATS), and his counterpart Ku Chen-fu of Taiwan's Straits Exchange Foundation (SEF) in protest at Taiwan President Li Teng-hui's visit to the United States in June.

Talks between the two sides, which would have been the second high-level discussions following a historic Ku-Wang meeting in Singapore in 1992, were originally scheduled for July.

Ku will come to Osaka on Friday for Sunday's informal summit of APEC leaders in place of President Li, who was not invited due to opposition from China, fueling speculation that overtures could be made from either side in a bid to mend fences.

But Sheu insisted that no bilateral talks had taken place, even on APEC matters, and that the 18-member APEC forum is not an appropriate venue for contacts between Taiwan and China.

China has regarded Taiwan as a breakaway province since the Chinese nationalists retreated to the island after their defeat by the communists in 1949.

Thai Official Warns Against Trade Rules Abuse

BK1711055995 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 17 Nov 95 p 8

[Report by POST reporters]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Osaka — Deputy Prime Minister Dr Amnuai Wirawan yesterday urged the 18 members of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum not to abuse flexible trading rules.

"While we can support and allow for a limited degree of flexibility, this privilege must not be abused and exploited," Dr Amnuai said.

His comment reflects concern that flexibility could be used as an excuse for retaining protectionism in agriculture and other sectors.

He also called on all member economies to try "to reorient" their respective international economic policies to be consistent with the spirit and substance of the APEC Action Agenda.

"Specifically, we all should refrain from taking unilateral measures which may be impelled by domestic considerations or which may originate from a perceived need to redress perceived imbalances in bilateral relations," he said. + Dr Amnuai said the Asia Pacific region had the opportunity to shape its own destiny into the 21st century.

"It must be a collective future, and it is a collective destiny," he said.

In implementing the Action Agenda, Dr Amnuai stressed the three pillars of APEC — liberalisation, facilitation, and technical cooperation — be given equal weight.

Philippines' Ramos on Farm Trade Liberalization

OW1611135495 Tokyo KYODO in English 1332 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Oita, Japan, Nov. 16 KYODO — Philippine President Fidel Ramos said Thursday [16 November] he will support farm trade liberalization in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum's action guidelines for realizing the region's free-trade vision by 2020.

Ramos, who was visiting Oita, southwestern Japan, before attending Sunday's informal APEC summit meeting in Osaka, told reporters that his country will make its utmost efforts with other economies to promote trade liberalization of farm products.

All APEC members support the "comprehensive" principle in APEC's action agenda but Japan and some other members want the element of "flexibility" in the principle's enforcement.

Japan recently offered a compromise proposal which was well received by the APEC members, indicating that the issue is nearing a resolution.

In a meeting with local business leaders, Ramos said the Philippines plans to set up and run an APEC technical transfer center next year. He also said he will call for the need of exchanges of human resources at the APEC gatherings in Osaka.

Ramos said the planned center is aimed at promoting technical transfer along with exchanges of human resources in the Asia-Pacific region.

He also said he wants to promote regional exchanges of human resources with Japan, and that he appreciates the Oita Prefectural Government's plan to set up an "Asia-Pacific University" for Japanese and other Asian students.

New Zealand Officials on Trade 'Flexibility'

OW1611125995 Tokyo KYODO in English 1235 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Osaka, Nov. 16 KYODO — New Zealand respects the proposed "flexibility" to the free trade and investment goals of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum, Trade Negotiations Minister Philip Burdon said Thursday [16 November].

That type of approach does not mean agriculture or any other sector would be excluded from the "comprehensive" free trade and liberalization initiatives, Burdon told reporters.

Burdon is among economic ministers of the 18-member APEC forum who are in Osaka, western Japan, to discuss Thursday and Friday their "action agenda" proposal to be submitted to an informal summit meeting Sunday.

Japan, as the current APEC chair country, has proposed that "flexibility" be exercised in allowing different treatment of economic sectors in APEC's liberalization and facilitation process, taking into account the sectoral specificity of each member.

"I respect of the commitment of flexibility," which, he said has been agreed on among members as a compromise.

The flexible approach should not serve as a substance but as a process to achieve the APEC goals to liberalize trade and investment in the region by 2010 for developed members and 2020 for developing partners, he said.

The minister said he takes a cautious stand toward admitting such countries as India and North Korea as new APEC members because of the forum's "specific characteristics."

Earlier in the evening, New Zealand Foreign and Trade Minister Donald McKinnon reiterated his country's concerns over nuclear testing by China in a bilateral meeting with Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen, New Zealand officials said.

ROK Minister Urges Trade Opening by Ability

SK1711014395 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD (Supplement) in English 17 Nov 95 p 2

[By staff reporter Yi Kap-su]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The progressive reduction of tariffs and nontariff measures should be conducted differently according to the stage of economic development and sectoral specificity, Korean Minister of Trade, Industry and Energy Pak Chae-yun said.

Delivering a speech at the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Ministerial Meeting held in Osaka Thursday, Minister Pak said that APEC members can differentiate the final goal and process of reduction by developed and developing economies.

"At the same time," Pak said, "APEC members can construct different patterns for reduction in agricultural and manufactured products.

"To ensure equal distribution of benefits of the reduction of tariffs and nontariff measures, the reduction measures of APEC should be accompanied with the reduction of preferential trading measures of the subregional arrangements, such as Rules of Origin," he said.

In the meantime with regard to investment issue, Korea feels that, along with the adoption of the APEC nonbinding investment principles at the last ministerial meeting, the drawing-up of the action program on investment this year can be seen as a strong commitment by member economies to regional investment liberalization, he said.

"In particular, for regional investment liberalization, I believe it is appropriate to extend MFN (most favored nation) treatment and national treatment to member economies, to increase the transparency of APEC investment regimes, and to provide technical assistance for facilitating investment activities," said Pak.

"As you well know, to propel the free and open trend of international investment environment, the OECD (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development) is moving to enact the multilateral agreement on investment as a clear and uniform norm on multilateral investment," he said.

The top trade policy-maker said Korea is making all possible efforts to improve its foreign investment environment by adopting a notification system for foreign investment, sharply reducing the processing period for foreign investment permission, simplifying investment procedures for trading businesses, and establishing a one-stop service system for foreign investors.

"I hope that APEC members will faithfully implement the relevant investment programs in the Action Agenda, as well as incorporate the applicable provisions of the multilateral agreement being discussed in the OECD into their own action plans through consultation with other member economies," said Pak.

Minister Pak also said that the further development of APEC depends on whether or not APEC members' activities generate visible and tangible benefits for the business activities in the region.

"I think that the adoption of the Action Agenda for implementing the Bogor Declaration can be evaluated as an initial step in APEC's efforts to provide tangible benefits for businessmen in the region," said Pak.

"In particular, we should first implement measures in areas most helpful to doing business, such as establishing software networks on investment regulations and opportunities, mutual recognition of conformity assessment, simplification of customs procedures and streamlining the visa processing for businesspeople mobility," he said.

ROK Official Urges 'Flexibility' on Farm Trade

SK1711015595 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD (Supplement) in English 17 Nov 95 pp 2, 3

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Should APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation) trade liberalization include farm goods?

The question is widely seen posing the hottest bone of contention at the Osaka APEC meeting under way through Nov. 21.

Member countries remain divided over the issue. Importing countries such as Korea, Japan, Taiwan and China are pushing for a separate treatment of the sensitive agricultural sector.

Directly against their views are exporting nations including the United States, Australia and Canada. These countries are firmly maintaining that food trade must be contained as a part of the APEC trade and investment liberalization pact.

Their view is that the exclusion of food trade would go against the principle of free trade.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Winston Lord was quoted as saying shortly before the APEC meeting, "Once you start excluding sensitive sectors for your country, other countries are going to follow suit."

APEC's free trade principle was agreed at the 1994 APEC summit meeting in Bogor, Indonesia. The 18 APEC leaders decided on free trade and investment within the region by 2020, with developed countries reaching the goal 10 years earlier.

Where does Korea stand on the issue?

"Flexibility (in farm goods trade) is the key to what we're seeking," said a senior agricultural official in his meeting with reporters, shortly before he left for Osaka to attend the APEC's meeting of SOM (Senior Officials' Meeting).

The SOM meeting, scheduled for Nov. 13-14, addressed the Action Agenda for the overall liberalization. The Nov. 16-17 ministerial meeting will then be followed by the summit talks Nov. 19, through which the leaders will adopt a declaration.

Choe Yong-kyu, director-general of International Agriculture Bureau at the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, explained the flexibility Korea is seeking is fully echoed within the framework of the WTO (World Trade Organization).

"We intend to maintain the farm market opening schedule in accordance with the WTO through 2004," he said. Following 2004, the WTO agreement is scheduled for renegotiation among member countries.

The unspoken implication is that liberalization is already and actively in progress within the Korean farming sector.

Under the WTO framework, Korea has already emerged as a major importing nation of farm goods within the region. In particularly sensitive sectors of meat and grain, Korea's import market is the second largest in the region next to Japan.

In the first half of 1995, Korea's total agro-fishery imports reached $4.18 billion, against a considerably smaller export figure of $1.38 billion.

The imports for the first six months marked a 21.3-percent rise in value compared to the same period last year, while exports grew by 17.3 percent.

By items, corn, wheat, soybean and beef are the four major commodities Korea imports.

The country's major source of farm imports are the United States, Australia and China. New Zealand and Canada are also gaining increasing importance as the suppliers of farm goods to Korea.

Perhaps more significant than the trade statistics may be the state of liberalization policy.

By 2004, almost all agricultural products are to be imported free of restrictions. To this end, the market is currently undergoing opening in gradual phases.

Korea's liberalization plan will be over a total of 142 agricultural items by 1997, beginning with the 89 items which were first liberalized in 1989.

For Korea, the GATT panel addressed the opening of 243 agricultural, forestry and fishery products.

Korea's "import liberalization ratio" — which reflects the ratio of the number of farm commodity imports with the total number of commodities produced — marked 92.4 percent as of 1994, signaling the farm market is close to full opening. [sentence as published]

ROK Minister Kong Views Trade Liberalization

SK1711065795 Seoul YONHAP in English 0634 GMT 17 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Osaka, Nov. 17 (YONHAP) — A ministerial meeting of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum Friday agreed to allow flexibility in dealing with matters stemming from different stages of economic development and other conditions of member countries so that timetables for liberalization of trade and investment among affiliate states can be set.

During the meeting, Foreign Minister Kong No-myong stressed that the word "flexibility," which will appear in the action agenda to be adopted at the APEC summit meeting Sunday as a guideline for trade and investment liberalization, means the consideration of timing, methods, and other related matters in pushing ahead with comprehensive liberalization.

Kong also said that the flexibility clause reflects Seoul's persistent position that special treatment should be given to sensitive sectors of industries of member countries in proceeding with liberalization and facilitation of trade and investment.

Last year's summit in Bogor, Indonesia, of APEC leaders agreed to come up with an action agenda which will serve as a guideline for trade and investment liberalization among APEC countries by this year's conference in Osaka.

South Korea, Japan, China and Taiwan, citing security reasons, have strongly demanded that the APEC package liberalization scheme allows special treatment to some sensitive areas of industries, including agricultural trade.

The United States, Australia, Canada and other APEC states are refusing to allow any flexibility in the comprehensive liberalization timetable, maintaining that conceding such elasticity to only one sensitive area of each country will eventually lead to the collapse of the economic forum.

ROK, Japanese Lawmakers on Farm Market Opening

SK1711054095 Seoul YONHAP in English 0520 GMT 17 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Nov. 17 (YONHAP) — Some South Korean and Japanese lawmakers representing farming districts in their respective nations issued a joint statement Friday in Seoul and Tokyo opposing further opening of the farm produce market.

The statement was issued on the eve of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit in Osaka.

"The attempt to advance the timetable of lowering trade barriers, specified in the World Trade Organization (WTO) agreement, on the part of some APEC member countries such as the United States and Australia is designed to push through the interests of their respective countries," the statement asserted.

It added, "We are opposed to a comprehensive trade liberation [as received] at the APEC summit in Osaka that does not reflect special characteristics of each country like agriculure."

South Korean lawmakers who signed the joint statement were Reps. Kim Young-jin, Yi Kil-jae and Kim Jang-kon of the major opposition National Congress for New Politics and Reps. Cho Il-hyun and Jung Jae-yong of the minor opposition United Liberal Democrats.

On the Japanese side, the list of signers included Rep. Toshikatsu Matsuoka, president of "Protect Japan's Agriculture" Lawmakers' Union.

APEC Ministers on Bogor Declaration Support

OW1711003395 Tokyo KYODO in English 0019 GMT 17 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Osaka, Nov. 17 KYODO — Ministers from the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum entered the final day of their annual gathering Friday [17 November], reconfirming political determination to achieve free trade and investment goals envisioned in the 1994 Bogor Declaration.

Foreign and trade ministers from APEC's 18 economies, an area representing nearly half of global trade, will clarify their commitment in a joint statement to be released at the close of the two-day meeting in Osaka.

The ministers will underscore the "strategic significance" of the action agenda, a blueprint to realize the Bogor commitment to ax all impediments to trade and investment in the Asia-Pacific Rim by 2020, according to a fresh draft joint statement.

The ministers "further underlined the strategic significance of the action agenda in providing a long-term framework to chart the future course of APEC cooperation, which will enhance the prospects of accelerated, balanced and equitable economic growth in the region," said the draft statement, a copy of which has been obtained by KYODO NEWS SERVICE.

The ministers are also dealing with APEC's organizational matters, such as how to upgrade APEC's two advisory bodies — the Eminent Persons Group (EPG) and the Pacific Business Forum (PBF), APEC sources said.

The sources said APEC is looking for a replacement of the EPG, a group of scholars that has contributed to shaping the course of APEC activities over the past three years.

Last year's APEC summit in Bogor adopted an EPG suggestion to transform the APEC region into a free trade and investment zone by 2010 for industrialized economies and 2020 for less developed economies.

As an alternative to the PBF, APEC has already decided to create a new business council to better reflect private views on the 18- member forum's activity.

The APEC business advisory committee will become operational in early 1996.

"APEC ministers will discuss the proposed committee's specific role and how to finance its operations," said one Japanese official.

The ministers are also dealing with a framework of criteria for letting nonmembers take part in activities of APEC's working groups, Japanese officials said.

Hashimoto Urges Accord on Organizational Matters

OW1711031995 Tokyo KYODO in English 0309 GMT 17 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Osaka, Nov. 17 KYODO — International Trade and Industry Minister Ryutaro

Hashimoto on Friday [17 November] urged ministers from the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum to reach a conclusion on ways to deal with APEC's organizational concerns.

In a speech opening the second and final day of APEC ministerial talks in Osaka, Hashimoto expressed hope that ministers will discuss and reach an agreement on organizational questions for the forum since they had been able to hol[illegible] "fruitful and effective discussions" on APEC's action agenda on Thursday.

Hashimoto said he hopes the APEC ministers will agree to the participation of non-APEC members in APEC working groups, to the expansion of the forum's secretarial functions and to the establishment of a new private advisory panel.

He also voiced hope that the ministers will discuss and agree on ways to upgrade another advisory body — the Eminent Persons Group of academics which has contributed to shaping the course of APEC activities over the past three years.

At the end of their talks Friday, foreign and trade ministers from APEC's 18 member economies are to attend a joint press conference, at which they are expected to clarify in a joint statement their commitment to liberalizing regional trade and investment.

According to a draft of the joint statement, the ministers will underscore the importance of the action agenda, a blueprint for making a reality of the commitment in last year's Bogor Declaration issued at the previous APEC summit in the Indonesian city to remove all barriers to trade and investment in the region by 2020.

They will underline "the strategic significance of the action agenda in providing a long-term framework to chart the future course of APEC cooperation, which will enhance the prospects of accelerated, balanced and equitable economic growth in the region," the draft statement says.

APEC Urged To Treat Food Security as Right

SK1[illegible]11090195 Seoul YONHAP in English
0733 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Nov. 16 (YONHAP) — A meeting of non-governmental organizations (NGO) from countries participating in the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum urged the governments of APEC countries Thursday to recognize food security as a basic human right as well as insuring it for their citizens.

A statement released by the South Korean chapter of the NGO forum on APEC insisted, "They (APEC member countries) ignore the plight of farmers, fishermen and forest people throughout the region whose food security, fisheries, water and land rights, communities, culture and environment are already being destroyed by liberalization."

The NGO forum is currently holding an international conference in Osaka, the venue for the APEC forum, to influence APEC countries' delegations. It warns that the liberalization scheme for agricultural trade embraced by the economic summit's agenda will eventually evict people from their native lands to become migrant laborers.

"They deny the value of traditional agrarian production and consumption patterns and their proven ability to provide food security for people," added the statement. The NGO forum is being attended by hundreds of representatives from over 100 non- governmental organizations and trade unions.

The NGO representatives also urged APEC delegations to take measures to protect biodiversity, ban the plunder of idigneous resources by transnational corporations, and reject intellectual property rights regimes which the forum insisted facilitate such exploitation.

"While the APEC agenda claims to promote the interests of small and medium-sized enterprises, liberalization of investment in fact promotes the rapid expansion of transnational enterprises, destroys small and medium businesses, and deepens unemployment," argued the NGO representatives.

Unanimously rejecting the basic philosophy, framework and assumptions of the model of free trade liberalization embraced by the APEC agenda, the NGO statement asserted, "This model does not lead to freedom: It negates the developmental and democratic aspirations of the people."

The NGOs maintained that the consequences of indiscriminate and unregulated liberalization of trade and investment will be socially unjust and ecologically unsustainable.

"It imposes irreversible social and environmental costs: And it enables governments to abdicate their responsibilities to their citizens and leave them at the mercy of transnational corporations and international financial institutions who are accountable to no one," they warned.

Organization Urges Promotion of Human Rights

OW1711035995 Tokyo KYODO in English
0330 GMT 17 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Osaka, Nov. 17 KYODO — An international human rights group urged leaders of the 18-member Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum Friday [17 November] to develop effective and consistent strategies to promote human rights in the region.

"Some of the most repressive governments in the APEC region have fiercely resisted any linkage between trade, economic development and human rights," the group, Human Rights Watch Asia, said in a report on the APEC region, released ahead of Sunday's informal APEC summit in Osaka.

It cited infringements on the freedom of expression and abusive labor practices as major concerns in some APEC countries, while accusing China of "disdain for fundamental human rights."

The report urged Asia-Pacific leaders to more vocally address human rights violations and to link trade benefits, development assistance or investment guarantees to nations' records on human and workers' rights.

It also called on foreign investors to take specific steps to promote human rights and the rule of law in the nations where they invest.

While acknowledging that Japan has supported a number of multilateral human rights initiatives, the report said Tokyo tends to play down human rights in bilateral relations and often fails to use its political and economic clout to promote such issues in Asia.

"Japan's willingness to risk offending China on the issue of nuclear weapons tests contrasted sharply with its reluctance to exert pressure on human rights concerns through its ODA (official development assistance) program with China or in its bilateral relations with Beijing," the report said.

Ministers Adopt Nonbinding Draft 'Action Agenda'

BK1711084395 Kuala Lumpur THE STAR in English 17 Nov 95

[Report by Harpajan Singh and Charles Chan — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] OSAKA: Apec [Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation] economic ministers yesterday dropped all rigid rules proposed by their leaders in Bogor last year and endorsed the Malaysian-advocated non-binding draft action agenda for trade liberalisation in the region.

The 18 ministers pushed through in five hours a draft which gives member countries the leeway and flexibility to decide the pace and sectors they intend to liberalise depending on their own capability.

The ministers also dropped the Bogor declaration's contention for rigid timeframes for developed and developing countries to liberalise trade by the year 2010 and 2020 respectively — which observers said would ensure Apec did not become institutionalised.

"The two deadlines are now indicative target dates. Everyone has realised that every country with problems wants flexibility. Unless you put that in black and white, they will not subscribe to anything which will bind them.

"So, now it is flexible and non-binding," a beaming International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Sri Rafidah Aziz told Malaysian journalists after the evening session of the two-day meeting.

"It is now up to the individual countries to liberalise depending on their respective capabilities without a binding timeframe. They cannot be forced into implementing the measures. This will be in the leaders' declaration.

"This was what Malaysia wanted since Bogor and we have got it. We can take credit for it," she added.

In Bogor, Malaysia was dubbed the "troublemaker" when it was the only member to express reservations (through an annexure) over hard and fast rules and binding timeframes.

Rafidah said the decision of the ministers yesterday was unanimous which reflected that the hard-liners who pressed for rigidity in Bogor had come down to reality.

She said the draft agenda approved by the ministers now emphasised collective effort based on best endeavour of the member economies to liberalise after the ministers accepted the reality that different countries were at different levels of economic development.

"On comparability, the draft now says that Apec economies will endeavour to ensure overall comparability of the trade and investment liberalisation and facilitation.

"It goes further to state that each Apec economy will endeavour to refrain from using measures which are in fact increasing levels of protection.

On flexibility, it states: Considering the different levels of economic development of Apec economies and the diverse circumstances of each economy, flexibility will be available in dealing with issues arising from such consensus in the liberalising and facilitation process," she added.

Malaysia, Singapore Hail APEC 'Action Agenda'

OW1611144595 Tokyo KYODO in English
1427 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Osaka, Nov. 16 KYODO — Malaysia's Minister for International Trade and Industry Rafidah Aziz said Thursday [16 November] that Malaysia supports the Osaka "Action Agenda," which has just been finalized by ministers of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum, because it is based on flexibility and voluntarism.

"Malaysia has agreed with the action agenda because the emphasis that we made on issues such as flexibility and also voluntarism has been included," she told reporters after the first day of a two-day meeting in Osaka of APEC trade and foreign ministers.

The finalized action agenda "is definitely a comedown" for "the hard-liners who have insisted on free trade, regimented deadlines, targets and hard and fast rules," she said, apparently referring to APEC members such as the United States and Australia.

The ministers managed to resolve their differences over the three general principles of diversity, comparability and nondiscrimination Thursday despite the failure of senior officials to do so earlier.

In the finalized action agenda, the ministers have agreed to replace the term "diversity" with "flexibility."

"Considering the different levels of economic development among APEC economies, and the diverse circumstances of each economy, flexibility will be available in dealing with issues arising from such circumstances in the liberalization and facilitation process," the agenda says.

Rafidah said that it is more realistic to talk about trade liberalization, rather than free trade.

Meanwhile, Singapore Trade and Industry Minister Yeo Cheow Tong hailed the finalized draft action agenda for freeing trade and investment within the APEC region as "balanced and comprehensive."

Yeo said that the APEC ministers had quashed all earlier media speculation that they would continue to lock horns in Osaka over the three general principles.

"We have been able to resolve all the outstanding issues. Now we have a draft action agenda, which is both balanced and comprehensive," he told a news conference.

Asked how the ministers managed to resolve their differences on the principles, he said that "there was enough give and take and everybody made tremendous efforts to accommodate each other's requirements."

On U.S. President Bill Clinton's decision to cancel his trip to Japan for the APEC summit Sunday, Rafidah said it was unlikely to affect the summit.

"After all, the APEC meeting is not about leaders. The real meeting is what we are having now at the ministerial level. The leaders' meeting is really informal."

She said it was only out of "bureaucratic courtesy" that the action agenda would be passed on to the leaders to announce at their summit.

Singapore's Yeo said that Clinton's decision to skip the summit due to a domestic crisis at home, was "understandable."

To 'Firmly' Prove Media 'Wrong'

BK1611105795 Singapore Radio Corporation of Singapore in English 1000 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] APEC [Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation] ministers have unanimously adopted an action agenda for realizing the group's aim of regional free trade by the year 2020. U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor said the ministers will now recommend the agenda to the forum leaders. He described the agenda as a good one, which they will recommend to the leaders.

Speaking at a news conference for local reporters, Singapore's Trade and Industry Minister Yeo Cheow Tong said he expects APEC leaders to approve the action agenda prepared by their economic ministers. Mr. Yeo added that the action agenda will firmly and decisively prove the media wrong that the APEC meeting would end up in failure.

'Text' of APEC Ministerial Joint Statement

OW1711081995 Tokyo KYODO in English
0727 GMT 17 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Osaka, Nov. 17 KYODO — The following is the full text of the joint statement of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum's ministerial meeting released Friday.

Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation

Ministerial Meeting
Osaka, Nov. 16-17, 1995

Joint Statement

1. Ministers from Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, the People's Republic of China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea,

the Republic of the Philippines, Singapore, Chinese Taipei, Thailand and the United States of America participated in the seventh Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) ministerial meeting convened in Osaka, Japan on Nov. 16-17, 1995. Members of the APEC Secretariat were also present. The ASEAN secretariat, the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC), and the South Pacific Forum (SPF) attended as observers.

2. The meeting was co-chaired by H.E. Mr. Ryutaro Hashimoto, deputy prime minister and minister of international trade and industry, and H.E. Mr. Yohei Kono, minister for foreign affairs, of Japan.

3. In his opening remarks, Mr. Hashimoto stated that Asia-Pacific cooperation demanded a framework to enable the self-driven initiatives of economies in the region, as well as APEC collective actions, to have maximum impact and achieve tangible results. He further noted that the meeting represented APEC's embarkation upon a new phase of action for the attainment of its vision and goals, and would thus be an important first step that would set the tone for APEC for years to come.

4. Speaking as chairman of the sixth APEC ministerial meeting, H.E. Mr. Hartarto, coordinating minister for industry and trade of Indonesia, expressed appreciation for Japan's leadership in facilitating the formulation of detailed proposals as mandated by the Bogor declaration. In this regard, he was pleased to note that the "Action Agenda" reflects the three major pillars of the APEC process, namely liberalization, facilitation and development cooperation which are equally important and closely interlinked. He also welcomed the proposal of Japan entitled "Partners for Progress" which represents an important step in narrowing economic disparities between APEC economies while supporting trade and investment liberalization. In conclusion, he stated that with the combined strength and potential as well as the reasonably differentiated time frames that have been adopted, in the long run APEC will be able to overcome all the difficulties, including those that seem complex at the present time.

I. The Action Agenda

5. Ministers recognized that, in response to the decisions made by the economic leaders at Bogor last year, APEC activities this year focused on the formulation of the action agenda to achieve the Bogor declaration goals. This new focus required intensive and wide-ranging deliberations in all APEC fora.

6. Ministers discussed the draft action agenda prepared by the senior officials, incorporating the contributions from relevant APEC fora. They agreed that the draft reflected the voluntary commitment and the political determination of each member economy to achieve the objectives set by the economic leaders at Bogor. Ministers further underlined the strategic significance of the action agenda in providing a long-term framework to chart the future course of APEC cooperation, which will enhance the prospects of accelerated, balanced and equitable economic growth in the region.

7. Ministers recognized that the action agenda would comprise trade and investment liberalization and trade and investment facilitation which together form part one of the action agenda, and economic and technical cooperation which is dealt with in part two. They emphasized that these areas from the three pillars of APEC activities, and that the three are complementary and equally significant. Ministers reaffirmed their belief that the economic well-being of the region will be maximized through the focused and integrated implementation of activities under these three pillars. They noted that the action agenda may be revised and improved as necessary in accordance with further deliberations during the ongoing process of its implementation.

8. Ministers noted that part one of the action agenda included general principles, framework for liberalization and facilitation, and actions in specific areas. They discussed and reached agreement on the general principles which are; comprehensiveness; WTO-consistency [World Trade Organization]; comparability; nondiscrimination; transparency; standstill; simultaneous start, continuous process, and differentiated timetables; flexibility; and cooperation.

9. Ministers underlined the unique approach for APEC liberalization and facilitation of trade and investment that builds on the marked regional trend toward economic reform and liberalization, and will act as a powerful impetus for further liberalization at the multilateral level. This approach comprises a combination of concerted unilateral actions, collective actions and multilateral actions. They confirmed each member economy's determination to submit its respective Action Plan to the 1996 APEC Ministerial Meeting in the Republic of the Philippines. These Action Plans will be formulated in accordance with the general principles and framework of the Action Agenda, so as to realize APEC's long-term goal of free and open trade and investment. Action Plans will comprise steps to be taken toward achievement of the objectives set out in each of the fifteen areas for specific action: tariffs, nontariff measures, services, investment, standards and conformance, customs procedures, intellectual property rights, competition policy, government procurement, deregulation, rules of origin, dispute mediation, mobility of business people, implementation

of the Uruguay Round outcomes, and information gathering and analysis.

10. Ministers stressed the need to further promote economic and technical cooperation in order to achieve sustainable growth and equitable development in the Asia-Pacific region. Economic and technical cooperation will reduce economic disparities among APEC economies, improve the economic and social well-being of the peoples of the region, contribute the process of trade and investment liberalization and facilitation and help to attain sustainable development. They reaffirmed that APEC economic and technical cooperation will be based on the three essential elements of developing common policy concepts, implementing joint activities and engaging in policy dialogue. Economic and technical cooperation activities will be pursued in the specific areas of human resources development, industrial science and technology, small and medium enterprises, economic infrastructure, energy, transportation, telecommunication and information, tourism, trade and investment data, trade promotion, marine resource conservation, fisheries, and agricultural technology. The overall progress of these activities will be subject to annual review.

11. Ministers agreed to introduce and utilize "Partners for Progress" (PFP) as a new mechanism, based on mutual assistance and voluntarism, to promote economic and technical cooperation more efficiently within APEC. They also noted that PFP will address all aspects of economic and technical cooperation with particular focus on cooperation which directly supports the liberalization and facilitation of trade and investment.

12. Recognizing that the various APEC fora have concentrated this year on contributing to the composition of the draft Action Agenda, ministers valued the inputs provided by the relevant Ministerial Meetings, and expressed satisfaction with the important contributions made by other APEC fora, including the Economic Committee (EC), the Committee on Trade and Investment (CTI), the Working Groups, the Policy Level Group, and the Experts Meetings. Ministers particularly welcomed the detailed plans for trade and investment liberalization and facilitation developed by the Committee on Trade and Investment. It was also noted that the Ministerial Meetings, Working Groups and other relevant fora had prepared Action Programs which form an integral part of the Action Agenda.

13. Ministers welcomed the third report submitted by the Eminent Persons Group as an important reference for elaborating the Action Agenda as well as stepping up APEC cooperation. The report contains recommendations on the implementation of the APEC vision set forth at the Economic Leaders Meetings on Blake Island and in Bogor.

14. Ministers welcomed the second report of the Pacific Business Forum, and noted that its recommendations on the implementation of the Bogor Declaration from the perspective of the business-private sector were of significant value in the process of drawing up the Action Agenda. Ministers also noted with satisfaction that various regional fora with business-private sector representation, such as Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC), Pacific Basin Economic Council (PBEC), and Asia Pacific Business Network (APB-Net), made substantial efforts to contribute to the formulation of the Action Agenda.

15. Ministers agreed to propose the draft Action Agenda to the economic leaders for their consideration and adoption.

II. Development of APEC Activities

Economic Issues and Outlook

16. Ministers welcomed the report of the EC, which reviews its first full year of work and details its Action Program for 1996. They emphasized the committee's role in enhancing APEC's capability for analysis of economic trends and studies of specific economic issues, particularly cross-cutting issues, and the importance of this work supporting the policy activities under way in other APEC fora.

17. Ministers thanked Japan for taking the lead in preparing the economic outlook paper entitled "1995 Report on the APEC Regional Economy — Performance, Structure, Outlook, and Challenges," which focuses on the medium-term issues and the generally favorable outlook for the region. Ministers also commended Canada on its paper entitled "Foreign Direct Investment and APEC Economic Integration" which provides a clear picture of the significant role played by investment in bringing about rapid economic growth in the region. Ministers endorsed the EC's work plan for 1996.

Trade and Investment Issues

18. Ministers welcomed the CTI's annual report to ministers for 1995 and noted with appreciation that the CTI had made a substantive contribution to the process of liberalization and facilitation of trade and investment in the region. Following the economic leaders' call in Bogor for action, they also noted that the Subcommittee on Customs Procedures and the Subcommittee on Standards and Conformance had made substantial contributions to the work of the CTI, with tangible achieve-

ments in their respective areas. In addition, ministers expressed appreciation for the CTI's reports on regional impediments to trade and investment, deregulation-liberalization initiatives in the region, and a mapping of members' unilateral-subregional-multilateral liberalization measures. Ministers valued the enhanced cooperation with the private sector in conjunction with the activities of the CTI and its subgroups, in particular the Customs and International Economic Symposium and the Investment Symposium.

19. Ministers indicated to the CTI the importance of addressing trade and investment related issues in the Action Agenda including those which had not been fully addressed in the 1995 CTI Work Program.

APEC Work Programs and Initiatives

20. Ministers welcomed the progress made by the various Ministerial Meetings launched as leaders' initiatives as well as by the 10 Working Groups and other APEC fora with their work programs and initiatives in addition to their contributions to the formulation of the Action Agenda. Ministers noted the Progress Reports of the APEC Working Groups. They encouraged the Working Groups and other APEC fora to continue to work closely with the business-private sector at the grassroots level.

A. Human Resources Development (HRD)

21. Ministers noted with satisfaction that the HRD Working Group had developed a number of programs in the seven priority areas set forth in the Human Resources Development Framework and for the liberalization and facilitation of trade and investment. Ministers commended the HRD Working Group for undertaking through its extensive networks a wide range of activities based on key priorities to deal with economic and technical cooperation on issues of a cross-cutting nature. They endorsed the launching of the Business Volunteer Program from 1996 with the establishment of a coordinating office in Bangkok. Ministers also welcomed the decision to hold an HRD Ministerial Meeting in the Republic of the Philippines in 1996. Ministers noted progress on the establishment of APEC Study Centers, as part of the APEC Economic Leaders Education Initiative, and welcomed the establishment of the APEC Education Foundation, which will mobilize additional funding for HRD and education exchange activities.

B. Industrial Science and Technology (IST)

22. Ministers were pleased to note that the IST Working Group had initiated and conducted a number of new projects on IST cooperation based on the following priorities: improved flows of technological information and technology, improved researcher exchanges, facilitation of joint research projects, improved transparency of regulatory frameworks, contribution to sustainable development, and enhanced policy dialogue and review.

23. Ministers thanked the People's Republic of China for hosting the first APEC Ministers Conference on Regional Science and Technology Cooperation in Beijing in October 1995, which endorsed a set of nonbinding principles for effective IST collaboration and identified priority areas for further cooperation. They welcomed the decision to hold a second ministerial conference in the Republic of Korea in 1996. Ministers also welcomed the holding of the first APEC Technomart in the Republic of Korea in 1995.

C. Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)

24. Ministers noted with satisfaction that the ad hoc SME Policy Level Group had successfully conducted policy dialogue and joint activities focusing on five priority areas, namely, human resources development, information access, technology and technology sharing, financing, and market access.

25. Ministers thanked Australia for hosting the second Small and Medium Enterprises Ministerial Meeting in Adelaide in September 1995, which endorsed the Action Program developed by the ad hoc SME Policy Level Group, and welcomed the decision to hold a third ministerial meeting in the Republic of the Philippines in 1996.

26. Ministers praised the Republic of the Philippines' efforts to promote the establishment of the APEC Center for Technology Exchange and Training for SMEs (ACTET SME).

D. Infrastructure

27. Ministers emphasized the importance of infrastructure improvement to the continued growth of APEC economies, and reaffirmed the high priority they accorded to infrastructure-related projects. They thanked Indonesia for hosting a productive dialogue in Jakarta in September 1995 between the public and business/private sectors, at which impediments to infrastructure improvement were identified and proposals for overcoming these problems made. They agreed that work in APEC should continue in this important area.

E. Energy

28. Ministers commended the Energy Working Group's efforts to address the simultaneous achievement of the 3Es and its contribution to the development of APEC as a sustainable energy community. They welcomed the decision to establish the Asia-Pacific Energy Research Center. Ministers also welcomed the proposal to hold an

APEC Energy Ministerial Meeting in Australia in 1996 to provide support and guidance to the work of APEC in the field of energy.

F. Transportation

29. Ministers were encouraged by the progress made by the Transportation Working Group toward developing and maintaining an integrated, safe, efficient and environmentally sustainable transportation system in the Asia-Pacific region.

30. Ministers thanked the United States of America for hosting the Transportation Ministers Meeting in Washington, D.C., in 1995. They welcomed the formulation by the transportation ministers of guiding principles and priorities for cooperation in the transportation sector, which provide a framework for the improvement of the regional transportation system.

G. Telecommunications

31. Ministers appreciated the progress made by the Telecommunications Working Group toward the development of interconnected and interoperable telecommunications and information infrastructure. They applauded the work it has advanced in its identified priority areas, and noted its intention to establish the goal of making telecommunications a model sector for implementing the Bogor Declaration.

32. Ministers thanked the Republic of Korea for hosting the first APEC Ministerial Meeting on Telecommunications and Information Industry in May 1995, which issued the Seoul Declaration setting objectives and principles for enhancing the Asia-Pacific Information Infrastructure (APII). Ministers welcomed the decision to hold the second Ministerial Meeting in Australia in 1996.

H. Tourism

33. Ministers expressed satisfaction that the Tourism Working Group had concentrated its activities in the area of long term environmental and social sustainability of the tourism industry through removing barriers to tourism movements and liberalising trade in services associated with tourism, implementing the concepts of environmental and social sustainability of tourism development; facilitating human resource development; enhancing the role of the private sector in tourism development; developing cooperation in telecommunications, transportation, passenger facilitation, financial and other information-based services related to trade in tourism; and information sharing on the tourism industry.

I. Trade and Investment Data

34. Ministers welcomed progress on the establishment of an APEC near comparable merchandise trade database as part of the Trade and Investment Data Database (TIDDB) and associated system developments. They also commended the Trade and Investment Data Working Group's plan to include databases on international trade in services and international investment within the TIDDB.

J. Trade Promotion

35. Ministers valued the Trade Promotion Working Group's role in providing trade opportunities and trade-related information to the APEC business community. They noted the work undertaken by the Trade Promotion Working Group in the areas of promoting trade-related activities in goods and services, trade financing, trade skills and training, information sharing to foster a trade-friendly environment, and cooperation between the business sector and government agencies, including trade promotion organizations.

K. Marine Resource Conservation

36. Ministers appreciated the work of the Marine Resource Conservation Working Group in contributing to sustainable development, enhancing trade and investment while protecting the marine environment, and ensuring continuing socioeconomic benefits through maintenance of marine environmental quality. They noted in particular its activities in the areas of marine algal toxins (red tides), regional implementation of the Oceans Chapter of UNCED's Agenda 21, and coastal zone planning and management.

L. Fisheries

37. Ministers commended the Fisheries Working Group for advancing work in the management of the production base of the fisheries and aquaculture sector, and promoting further work on trade and investment issues in the fisheries sector, through, inter alia, alignment of rules and regulations on product standards concerning fish and fisheries products, including food safety and quality assurance.

M. Agricultural Technology

38. Ministers noted the identification of the following priorities for cooperation in agricultural technology: exchange of plant and animal germplasm; agricultural biotechnology; processing and marketing of agricultural products; plant and animal quarantine and pest management; information sharing in the development of agricultural finance systems; and technology transfer and technical training.

39. They thanked Chinese Taipei for hosting the first Experts Meeting on Agricultural Technical Cooperation, and welcomed the decision to hold a second Experts Meeting in Chile in 1996.

N. Finance

40. Ministers noted that the second APEC Finance Ministers Meeting was held in Indonesia in 1995 and that the meeting had discussed various issues such as capital flows, exchange rate movements and funding for infrastructure development and, amongst other issues, antimoney laundering efforts. Ministers welcomed the decision to hold a third Ministerial Meeting in Japan in 1996.

O. Sustainable Development

41. Ministers noted with satisfaction progress in the integration of environmental issues into the ongoing activities of relevant APEC fora, to help ensure sustainable development. They welcomed the proposal to hold a Ministerial Meeting on sustainable development in the Republic of the Philippines in 1996.

III. Organizational Issues

APEC Secretariat

42. Ministers expressed appreciation for the excellent work done by Executive Director Ambassador Shojiro Imanishi and the Secretariat staff in supporting the various APEC Committees and Working Groups and the APEC process as a whole. Recognizing the necessity to augment the strength of the Secretariat in connection with the implementation of the Action Agenda, Ministers endorsed the recommendations of the Task Force for the Review of the APEC Secretariat, and instructed the Senior Officials to begin implementing these recommendations as soon as possible.

43. Ministers expressed satisfaction with the progress of the APEC Communications and Database System (ACDS) and urged APEC members to utilize the system fully. Ministers noted that the Secretariat had produced a range of publications and had increased its efforts to circulate them to a wider audience.

Participation Issues

44. Ministers discussed the issue of nonmember participation in APEC Working Group activities, and adopted the proposal on criteria and principles relating to this matter which was submitted by the Senior Officials, as amended.

45. Ministers instructed the Senior Officials to continue their consideration of APEC's policy on new membership and observer status and to provide recommendations to the 1996 APEC Ministerial Meeting.

Eminent Persons Group (EPG)

46. Ministers recognized with appreciation the valuable contribution the EPG has made during the past three years to furthering the development of APEC activities and commended the successful accomplishment of its mission.

47. Ministers acknowledged the value of receiving advice and recommendations from knowledgeable and independent personalities from time to time on specific matters, and agreed that the EPG mechanism or similar advisory group may be constituted at any time as necessary with new membership for this purpose.

Establishment of the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC)

48. Reaffirming that close cooperation between governments and the business/private sector is critical to enhancing the effectiveness of APEC activities, ministers expressed appreciation for the valuable contributions the Pacific Business Forum has provided during the last two years.

49. Ministers agreed to establish the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) in 1996, recognizing the importance of continued cooperation and active involvement of the business/private sector in all APEC activities. Ministers decided on a set of guidelines on the structure, funding and activities of the ABAC with a view to its early inauguration. They noted that the guidelines would be reviewed the following year.

Budget Issues

50. Ministers commended the Budget and Administrative Committee (BAC) for its work during the year in scrutinizing budget requests, streamlining procedures and improving administrative and operational efficiency. Ministers approved a 1996 budget of US 3,094,160 dollars as proposed by the BAC and recommended by the Senior Officials. Ministers also endorsed a 1996 contribution totaling US 2,838,000 dollars, and constituent individual contribution levels, as proposed by the BAC and recommended by the Senior Officials.

Other Matters

Preparation for the Eighth Ministerial Meeting

51. Ministers thanked the Republic of the Philippines for the valuable briefing on the preparations for the Eighth APEC Ministerial Meeting to be held in Manila in 1996.

Venues for Future APEC Meetings

52. The Ninth and Tenth Ministerial Meetings will be held respectively in Canada in 1997 and in Malaysia in 1998. Ministers welcomed the offer of New Zealand to host the Eleventh Ministerial Meeting in 1999.

53. Mr. Kono, in his closing statement, observed that APEC was now advancing on to a new stage where the Bogor objectives will be translated, step by step, into reality through the implementation of the Action Agenda. He noted that APEC will accordingly evolve further as an organization, with the active engagement of the business/private sector. He called upon the Ministers to continue to provide political guidance to the APEC process, and to stay in close contact to that end.

54. Ministers and their delegations expressed their heartfelt appreciation to Japan for the warm and generous hospitality extended to them and the excellent facilities and arrangements made available for the Meeting.

ASEAN Supports Services Sector Liberalization

BK1611061095 Bangkok THE NATION in English 16 Nov 95 p B1, B2

[Report by Chirawat Na Thalang and Yindi Loetcharoenchok]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Osaka — In a symbolic message to other APEC members that ASEAN is at the forefront of free trade movements, the Southeast Asian regional grouping yesterday formally announced that they will sign a broad framework next month to kick off negotiations on liberalization of the services sectors.

Speaking after chairing a special one-day meeting of ASEAN economic ministers here, Deputy Prime Minister Amnuai Wirawan said ASEAN economic ministers will recommend that their respective heads of government endorse a framework to expand the grouping's economic cooperation from trade in goods to services.

ASEAN ministers also discussed with the Vietnamese Trade Minister Le Van Triet Vietnam's plan to participate in the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) agreement.

Amnuai said the meeting yesterday did not discuss the prospects for Vietnam, the latest ASEAN member, joining the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum.

Speaking after the meeting, Le Van Triet told reporters, "We discussed what we agreed to (at the economic ministerial conference) in Brunei." But he declined to elaborate or discuss other issues.

Amnuai told reporters that ASEAN expects to complete the process of negotiations on services in three years. The talks will concentrate on sectors that are to be liberalized.

"We hope to implement the framework agreement in services before the end of the AFTA period," Amnuai said.

Amnuai said the meeting yesterday also discussed the preparations for next month's ASEAN summit to be held in Bangkok. The economic ministers have already agreed to cut the AFTA timeframe from 2008 to 2003.

He added that ASEAN ministers did not accept Brunei's proposal to cut the AFTA timeframe to 2000. "Some members might accelerate the cuts to 2000 voluntarily, but it is not the requirement for the programme," he said.

Nonetheless, the economic ministers committed to putting more products in the AFTA fast track basket, or the group of products subject to accelerated tariff cuts, to 2000 ahead of the normal AFTA timeframe for three years.

Domingo Saizon, the Philippines Secretary of Foreign Affairs, said he supported closer ASEAN cooperation. "But we have to look at the products to be included in the new framework," he said.

Amnuai said ASEAN members' responses to strengthening the grouping's cooperation in services have been quite positive.

"We will apply the flexible consensus that is, any ASEAN member which is not ready might temporarily opt out from the timeframe," he said.

The potential areas for future service cooperation are tourism, telecommunications, banking and finance, construction and business services.

In addition, the ASEAN economic ministers also agreed yesterday to initiate the new ASEAN investment cooperation agreement.

The new industrial cooperation scheme is to replace the existing ASEAN Industrial Joint Venture project which grants tax privileges exclusively to industries wishing to locate their plants in ASEAN member states.

ASEAN Ministers Discuss Summit Topics

BK1611081195 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 16 Nov 95 pp 17, 20

[Report by Somphon Thapanachai, Nutsara Thaithawat, and Wichit Sirithawiphon]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Osaka — ASEAN economic ministers, meeting to prepare for next month's summit in Bangkok have agreed to set a deadline of three years to finish negotiations on services liberalisation.

They also agreed to set up a new industrial promotion scheme to replace the present ASEAN Industrial Joint Venture programme whose duty reduction incentives are being eroded by the ASEAN Free Trade Area programme. The new programme could be introduced within two years.

The ministers took the opportunity to hold their special meeting in Osaka yesterday because all but the Vietnamese are attending the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation group's meetings here.

Le Van Triet, Vietnam's Trade Minister, flew specially to Osaka for the ASEAN meeting even though Vietnam is not yet a member of APEC.

The ASEAN leaders intend to sign a framework agreement on cooperation in services at the Bangkok summit, set for December 15- 16.

All ASEAN members including Vietnam which just joined ASEAN this year will start negotiations immediately after the leaders announced their agreement, Thai Deputy Prime Minister Amnuai Wirawan said after yesterday's talks.

The negotiations will take three years to end in December 1998. The AFTA approach will be applied on the negotiations in this sector, meaning ASEAN members will agree first in principle to liberalisation. They will then start talking about details of how to reach the plan.

He said ASEAN will use "flexible consensus" on the negotiations - every member should enter negotiations in specific sectors, but they will be allowed to use flexibility in completing their own liberalisation programme at a different level and timetable.

The ASEAN economic ministers are set to start negotiations in the financial and banking sectors including insurance, tourism, transportation and construction, Dr Amnuai said.

Many ASEAN members want an "open skies" policy for more liberalisation in aviation because it will give convenience to all ASEAN members, he said.

He said some members had agreed on a trilateral agreement on liberalisation in aviation and it is likely the six members in the Mekong Basin will have a similar agreement soon.

Meanwhile, officials are to be assigned to look at details of the new industrial cooperation scheme. In Thailand, the Industry Ministry will take the lead.

Criteria include a principle that Dr Amnuai described as fairer- promotion will be offered to sectors rather than to individual companies or projects.

Among the details to be worked out are the selection method of deciding which industries should be promoted, and criteria for setting required proportions of ASEAN and non-ASEAN investment.

The new scheme is designed to maintain fairness between existing industries and those that are to be promoted.

ASEAN leaders will officially announce the group decision to shorten the timeframe of a tariff reduction programme under the ASEAN Free Trade Area from 15 to 10 years, ending in 2003, while encouraging members to speed up the program by 2000.

They will also sign a framework of economic cooperation agreement that will include packages of cooperation in intellectual property rights, services, as well as an agreement on dispute settlement mechanisms.

ASEAN secretary-general Dato Ajit Singh said the agreement will be amended "on the spot" to enable Vietnam to Join.

Vietnam has already submitted its tariff reduction programme under the Common Effective Preferential Tariffs scheme which seeks to cut the rate to 0-5% by 2003. Dato Ajit Singh said other ASEAN members are happy with Vietnam's programme, to begin on January 1, 1996.

Malaysian Minister on ASEAN Tariff Cut Plans

BK1611113795 Kuala Lumpur THE STAR in English 16 Nov 95

[Unattributed report — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Osaka — Regardless of what is happening at APEC [Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation], ASEAN countries are on target in achieving significant tariff cuts to promote freer trade among themselves by the year 2000.

According to International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Sri Rafidah Aziz, achieving a zero tariff rate by 2003 would not be a problem.

Speaking to the Malaysian media after the Asean Economic Ministers (AEM) meeting in Osaka, she said by then 80 per cent of tariff lines in ASEAN countries would fall between the zero and five per cent range.

Apart from Singapore, Malaysia would have one of the lowest Common Effective Preferential Tariff (CEPT) among the ASEAN countries, with an average CEPT tariff of 2.9 per cent, compared with 1.7 for Brunei; 8.1 for Indonesia; and more than seven for Thailand.

On the AEM meeting, she said they discussed the ASEAN Summit in December in Bangkok and the need to restructure the format and streamline decision-making mechanism for economic and political matters.

Japan

Official Reports on Kono-Cristopher Meeting

OW1611143195 Tokyo KYODO in English
1422 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Osaka, Nov. 16 KYODO — Japan and the United States formally agreed Thursday [16 November] night to hold a meeting between Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama and Vice President Al Gore on Sunday in Osaka after a series of meetings among leaders of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum, a Foreign Ministry official said.

Foreign Minister Yohei Kono and Secretary of State Warren Christopher reached the agreement during an hourlong meeting at a hotel in Osaka.

Kono and Christopher also agreed that the two countries should try to reschedule U.S. President Bill Clinton's trip to Japan as early as possible, the official said.

Christopher told reporters prior to his talks with Kono, however, that it is unlikely the presidential trip will be rescheduled this year due to the domestic schedule.

Clinton canceled his trip to Japan because of the budget crisis. He had been scheduled to attend the APEC leaders' meeting in Osaka and to hold summit talks with Murayama in Tokyo.

Murayama and Gore are expected to confirm that the Japan-U.S. security alliance is important for the peace and stability of the Asia-Pacific area, the official said.

The two leaders are also likely to pledge the two countries' determination to vigorously tackle problems involving U.S. bases on Okinawa, the official said, and that they will also confirm that a newly agreed upon bilateral forum to discuss further realignment and consolidation of U.S. military facilities in Okinawa should begin its activities as soon as possible.

Tokyo and Washington agreed to set up the forum when U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry held talks with Kono and Defense Agency chief Seishiro Eto earlier this month.

The official who briefed reporters said, however, that Murayama and the U.S. Vice President will not publish a joint declaration on the Japan-U.S. security alliance as was scheduled after the Clinton- Murayama talks.

Tokyo and Washington were planning to issue the joint declaration to reconfirm the importance of bilateral security relationship, which has been strained since the alleged rape of a Japanese schoolgirl in Okinawa by three U.S. military personnel.

Murayama and Gore are also likely to discuss ways to strengthen the two countries' cooperative relations, such as promoting student exchanges between the two countries, the official said.

Also during the talks, Kono and Christopher agreed to hold tripartite foreign ministerial talks with South Korea on Friday to further strengthen cooperative relations among the three countries in dealing with problems on the Korean peninsula, he said.

Turning to the Former Yugoslavia, Christopher repeated the U.S. call on Japan to make financial contributions in helping reconstruction of the region.

Kono replied Japan will study what it can do but that it wants to participate in various discussions on the reconstruction of the Balkan region, the official said.

He added that just as Japan and the U.S. are actively involved in solving the problems over North Korea's alleged nuclear development, European countries should also take interest in participating in the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO), the official said. KEDO is an organization established to provide North Korea with two modern light-water reactors.

Christopher will leave Friday afternoon for home.

Further on Clinton's Scheduled Trip Cancellation

Hashimoto: Damaging to Mutual Ties

OW1711111295 Tokyo KYODO in English
1100 GMT 17 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Osaka, Nov. 17 KYODO — Japan's International Trade and Industry Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto said Friday [17 November] that U.S. President Bill Clinton's cancellation of his scheduled visit to Japan is damaging bilateral relations in various ways.

Hashimoto made the remark to reporters at a hotel in Osaka where he was staying for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum's ministerial meeting which ended Friday.

Hashimoto said, "Efforts are needed to minimize the damage" caused by Clinton's decision to cancel his planned trip to Japan to attend the weekend APEC summit meeting in Osaka and a meeting with Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama in Tokyo on Monday.

Clinton made the decision due to the budget impasse in Washington that has partially closed down the federal government.

Hashimoto said that whether the damage can be reduced depends on how far Clinton has authorized Vice President Al Gore, who will visit Japan in his place, to act for him.

Eto: Not To Affect Defense Accord

OW1711124095 Tokyo MAINICHI SHIMBUN in Japanese 17 Nov 95 Morning Edition p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] On 16 November, regarding the fact that the announcement of the Japan-U.S. joint statement aimed at redefining the bilateral security arrangements has been postponed due to the cancellation of U.S. President Bill Clinton's visit to Japan, Defense Agency Director General Seishiro Eto told reporters: "There is no change in the government's stand that the defense program outline should be decided on by the end of November." He thus stressed that the cancellation of Clinton's visit will not influence the program's preparations. During a news conference held the same day, Vice Defense Minister Naoaki Murata said: "Although the new program has something to do with the joint statement in terms of bilateral security arrangements, there will be no influence on its preparation because the defense authorities of the two countries have been working out the details for over a year."

Ota Shows Bewilderment

OW1711010095 Naha OKINAWA TIMES in Japanese 16 Nov 95 Evening Edition p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] On the morning of 16 November, Okinawa Governor Masahide Ota showed bewilderment upon hearing reports that U.S. President Bill Clinton postponed his visit to Japan. He said: "This is something we have worried about because of the situation in the United States. It concerns us how things will now develop." However, it has turned out that the planned redefinition of the security arrangement at the Japanese-U.S. summit talks will also be postponed. Regarding this point, Ota said: "It is still necessary to conduct a little more public debate on security arrangements. We now have slightly more time for that." He thus indicated hope that further in-depth debates can be conducted on the Status of Forces Agreement and military base issues.

Meanwhile, Ota, who has expressed doubts about a joint Japanese-U.S. statement being issued without public consensus on U.S. insistence that 100,000 troops need to be maintained in East Asia, said: "It is necessary to conduct public debates on such matters as why it is necessary to maintain 100,000 U.S. troops in Asia." While showing caution by saying, "We would like to see how things will develop," the governor expressed strong desire that from now on, Okinawa's views will be reflected in the joint statement.

Officials' Comments on Clinton's Decision Weighed

OW1711085195 Tokyo MAINICHI SHIMBUN in Japanese 17 Nov 95 Morning Edition p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] The three ruling parties are trying as hard as possible to remain calm over U.S. President Clinton's decision to cancel his trip to Japan. However, it can be said that the chorus of their comments, saying "there will be no problems," clearly shows the reality that politicians' understanding based on the importance of Japan-U.S. relations is certainly changing and that the ties between the two countries are weakening.

"We concentrated our efforts on the settlement of various pending issues. The only remaining thing was to put the capstone in place. The pyramid will not collapse. We are sure that there will be no problem."

This is what Taku Yamasaki, chairman of the Liberal Democratic Party's [LDP] Policy Research Council, said to a group of reporters on 16 November. He then stressed a view that "suspension of the Japan-U.S. summit talks will have no effect" [on our relations].

In response to a question by a group of reporters, LDP Secretary General Koichi Kato also said: "There will be absolutely no impact on Japan-U.S. relations." He acted coolly and followed all of his appointments on his prearranged schedule. Although the highest-level meeting for the discussion of diplomatic and security issues was canceled, senior LDP officials showed no sign of discussing remedial measures. They communicated with the Prime Minister's Official Residence only by telephone.

For the time being, the greater part of the LDP's interest is focused on an upper house by-election in Saga Prefecture. The fact is that doors of the LDP headquarters and the Diet are open but practically no business is being conducted inside.

The Social Democratic Party of Japan [SDPJ] also responded slowly to the cancellation. On the morning of 16 November, Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama, who was at SDPJ headquarters, received a call from President Clinton and was informed of the decision to call off the trip to Japan. But other senior SDPJ officials did nothing but watch the prime minister talking to the president over the phone. Even after the prime minister left, the senior SDPJ officials hardly discussed how the party would buckle down to the Okinawan issue. Because of the unexpected happening, however, discussions were not made on the issue of forming a new party, which was a main theme at the senior officials' meeting. This incident [cancellation of the trip] showed the actual condition that the SDPJ momentarily, "although it is a ruling party, is incapable of doing something extra," (according to a Dietman of medium standing).

As a ruling party, the SDPJ is hoping for an early settlement of the Okinawan issue. At the same time, the party was in dilemma. It asked the Ministry of Foreign Affairs not to clearly state "maintenance of the U.S. forces in Japan at the current level (47,000 personnel)" in the "joint statement on Japan-U.S. security [arrangements]." Because of this, some quarters in the party feel relieved to hear the cancellation.

The Okinawan issue is a very important task for the party. Prime Minister Murayama made a magnificent gesture in his speech declaring that he would "stake his administration's fate" on the issue of U.S. military bases on Okinawa. Spending a great deal of energy on breaking the deadlock, the ruling parties characterized the Japan-U.S. summit talks as the final procedure of winning understanding from the people in Okinawa Prefecture. Nevertheless, some people point out that the sense of the senior ruling party members — who do not hesitate to say that the cancellation of the summit talks creates "no problem" — and the sense of Noboru Hoshuyama — former Defense Facilities Administration Agency director general who was forced to resign from his post after criticizing the prime minister that "he should get rid of the sentimental argument and decide to undertake the proxy signing" — are fundamentally the same.

Tokyo Decides To Set Up Panel on Okinawa Issues

OW1711013495 Tokyo KYODO in English
0122 GMT 17 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Nov. 17 KYODO — Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama's cabinet formally decided Friday [17 November] to set up a panel devoted to issues related to the U.S. military presence in Okinawa.

Panel members include Foreign Minister Yohei Kono, Defense Agency Chief Seishiro Eto, Chief Cabinet Secretary Koken Nosaka and Okinawa Gov. Masahide Ota, government officials said.

The first meeting of the panel is slated for Nov. 25 following a meeting between Murayama and Ota set for Nov. 24, they said.

The panel is scheduled to take up such issues as reduction and consolidation of U.S. bases in Okinawa and a review of the status of forces agreement covering U.S. military personnel stationed in Japan.

The U.S. military presence in Okinawa has been under fire from Okinawa people since the rape in early September of a local schoolgirl, for which three U.S. servicemen are on trial.

The rape incident has fueled deep-rooted local resentment of the U.S. military in Okinawa, prompting Ota to refuse to sign documents needed for the forced rental of land owned by Okinawa residents to the U.S. military.

Okinawa, southwestern Japan, is home to about 75 percent of U.S. military facilities in the country.

Kantor's Amicable Behavior Surprises Negotiators

OW1611174995 Tokyo MAINICHI SHIMBUN
in Japanese 16 Nov 95 Morning Edition p 11

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) Mickey Kantor is behaving very nicely in Osaka although he has been one of the most difficult persons for Japanese trade negotiators. On 15 November, Kantor separately met International Trade and Industry Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto and Foreign Minister Yohei Kono, but he did not refer to any issues related to Japan-U.S. trade frictions. Japanese negotiators were surprised because they presumed THAT Kantor would have aggressive attitudes toward various trade issues, including extension of the Japan-U.S. semiconductor agreement.

Japan-U.S. relations are damaged by the issues concerning U.S. military bases on Okinawa, and U.S. President Bill Clinton decided to shorten the schedule for his Japan visit because of difficulties in domestic affairs [sentence as received]. It appears Kantor does not want to worsen economic frictions between the two nations under such circumstances.

Kantor urged an extension of the bilateral semiconductor accord when he met Hashimoto after the quadrilateral trade talks in October. During a news conference held prior to the Japan trip, Kantor predicted he would bring up the semiconductor issue during the Osaka talks. As Japanese negotiators were ready to carry out debates on the semiconductor issue, they amazedly said "We thought he would refer to the issue" (as noted by a senior Ministry of International Trade Industry official).

Some U.S. watchers say "Kantor is losing interest in Japan bashing" as he is expected to leave his office immediately after the Osaka conference to fully grapple with Clinton's election campaign.

Talks With Pena on Aviation Issues Failed

OW1711111195 Tokyo KYODO in English
1040 GMT 17 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Nov. 17 KYODO — Japan and the United States failed Friday [17

November] to reconcile their differences over both cargo and passenger aviation services, including a dispute over so-called "beyond rights" to fly on to third countries, a Japanese official said.

The gap was highlighted in a meeting between Transport Minister Takeo Hiranuma and U.S. Transportation Secretary Federico Pena, who discussed issues of mutual concern at a Tokyo hotel, said Jiro Hanyu, deputy director general of the ministry's Civil Aviation Bureau, who attended the talks.

Pena is in Japan to attend the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum.

The U.S. Secretary hinted at U.S. reluctance to discuss a Japanese proposal to rectify the disparity in the number of passengers flown by U.S. and Japanese airlines "in parallel with" ongoing air cargo talks, Hanyu said.

"Minister Hiranuma proposed discussing the passenger service issue in parallel with air cargo talks, telling (Pena) it is inevitable that talks will be held on this matter sooner or later in view of even greater inequality in the field," he said.

Pena reacted to the proposal with replies of "a negative nuance," he said.

Hiranuma also told Pena that U.S. "beyond rights" to fly on from Japan to other Asian destinations should be restricted, Hanyu said.

The minister demanded that Japanese air carriers be given the "same levels of beyond rights as those which U.S. air carriers are now enjoying," he said.

Hiranuma also proposed setting up a venue for "informal talks" where top-ranking aviation officials of the two countries could discuss requests for new routes by the airlines of each country without being monitored by representatives from the airlines concerned, he said.

Because "powerful" airline representatives often accompany formal ministerial-level or working-level talks, government negotiators find it difficult to speak their minds or discuss specific demands for new air routes, he said.

Hiranuma proposed such "informal talks" be held under the condition that remarks by officials of both sides would be regarded as being "noncommital," Hanyu said.

Japan is interested in discussing a possible rectification of the disparity in Japan-U.S. air passenger services as the passenger market is five to 10 times the size of the air cargo market, he said.

In a related development, Pena said in a group interview with KYODO NEWS SERVICE and three other news organizations, that the U.S. will consider the proposal to set up such an informal venue.

"Today...I emphasized that we should not be distracted from what our negotiators are doing on cargo to meet the March goal," penasaid.

Pena was speaking of a July meeting in Los Angeles with Hiranuma's predecessor, at which the two sides agreed to hold talks by March on modifying the cargo portion of the 1952 aviation treaty, which Japan calls unfair.

Following the first round of the resumed aviation talks Sept. 26-28, at which the two sides remained at odds, he said, "at the next round (starting Nov. 28), both sides will be bringing very very specific proposals."

Official Says Secretary Brown Cancels Visit

OW1711132495 Tokyo KYODO in English
1301 GMT 17 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Osaka, Nov. 17 KYODO — U.S. Commerce Secretary Ron Brown, who was expected to fly into Osaka on Saturday [18 November] together with President Bill Clinton, has also canceled his visit to Japan, a Japanese Foreign Ministry official said.

Brown was originally to attend the ministerial meetings of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum in Osaka on Thursday and Friday but his schedule was changed several times before Clinton finally decided Wednesday not to go to Japan, the official said.

Clinton canceled his trip due to the U.S. domestic budget crisis. He was scheduled to attend the informal summit meeting of APEC leaders in Osaka on Sunday and to hold bilateral talks with Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama in Tokyo on Monday.

The United States was represented at the ministerial meetings by Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Trade Representative Mickey Kantor.

U.S., ROK Agree on Tripartite Talks on DPRK

OW1711085895 Tokyo KYODO in English
0841 GMT 17 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Osaka, Nov. 17 KYODO — Japan, the United States and South Korea agreed Friday [17 November] to hold a meeting of senior officials in January to discuss ways to open up North Korea to the international community, officials said.

The agreement emerged from a meeting of foreign ministers from the three countries at a hotel in Osaka, along with mutual desire to see a resumption of the long-stalled dialogue between North and South Korea, the officials said.

Foreign Minister Yohei Kono, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and South Korean Foreign Minister Kong No-myong held the three-way meeting after attending a ministerial meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum.

"The three ministers shared the view that close consultation, cooperation and coordination among the ROK (Republic of Korea), Japan and the U.S. have become even more important to ensure peace and stability in Northeast Asia including the Korean peninsula," the foreign ministers said in a joint statement after the meeting.

"The ministers also agreed that the three countries would continue to closely coordinate their policies toward North Korea in order to encourage North Korea's increased opening to and dialogue with the international community and the improvement in inter-Korean relations," the statement said.

"In this regard, the three ministers decided to maintain close consultation on the ministerial as well as senior official level to further strengthen the trilateral cooperation," the document said. "In this context, they decided to hold the first senior-level meeting next January."

South Korean officials said the venue and other details of the January talks have yet to be decided by Tokyo, Washington and Seoul.

Kono, Christopher and Kong also discussed the state of negotiations between the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO) and North Korea.

Kedo, formed by Japan, the U.S. and South Korea earlier this year, is scheduled to provide Pyongyang with two light-water reactors in return for the North's pledge to dismantle its alleged nuclear program suspected of pursuing a nuclear weapons scheme.

Friday's joint statement said the three foreign ministers "affirmed that continued concerted efforts by the three countries in cooperation with other countries are essential to successfully implement the agreed framework."

The three countries also concurred in their assessment of the American presence and engagement in Northeast Asia as an essential element of peace and stability in the region, the statement said.

The three foreign ministers also pledged joint efforts "for the reduction of tension in the Korean peninsula and the strengthening of the groundwork for peaceful reunification of the two Koreas through improvement in the inter-Korean relationship," the statement said.

'Text' of Joint Statement

OW1711101095 Tokyo KYODO in English 0952 GMT 17 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Osaka, Nov. 17 KYODO — The following is the full text of the joint statement issued Friday [17 November] by the foreign ministers of Japan, the United States and South Korea after their meeting in Osaka.

1. The Foreign Ministers Kong No-myong of the Republic of Korea (ROK), Yohei Kono of Japan, and Secretary of State Warren Christopher of the United States (U.S.), participating in the 7th APEC ministerial meeting, held talks on the overall situation in Northeast Asia on November 17, 1995 in Osaka, Japan.

2. The three ministers shared the view that close consultation, cooperation and coordination among the ROK, Japan and the U.S. have become ever more important to ensure peace and stability in Northeast Asia including the Korean peninsula.

3. The ministers also agreed that the three countries would continue to closely coordinate their policies toward North Korea in order to encourage North Korea's increased opening to and dialogue with the international community and the improvement in inter-Korean relations. In this regard, the three ministers decided to maintain close consultation on the ministerial as well as senior official level to further strengthen the trilateral cooperation. In this context, they decided to hold the first senior-level meeting next January.

4. The three ministers welcomed the progress that has been made in implementing the agreed framework during its first year, particularly the maintenance of the nuclear freeze. At the same time, they expressed concern over the delay in North-South dialogue. They exchanged views concerning the negotiations between the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO) and North Korea concerning the light water reactor supply agreement. They affirmed that continued concerted efforts by the three countries in cooperation with other countries are essential to successfully implement the agreed framework.

5. The three ministers reaffirmed that the continued presence and engagement of the United States is essential to ensure peace, stability and prosperity in the region.

6. Ministers also expressed satisfaction with the fact that they were able to reconfirm, through this trilateral policy talks, their commitment to make joint efforts for the reduction of tension in the Korean peninsula and the strengthening of the groundwork for peaceful reunification of the two Koreas through improvement in the inter-Korean relationship.

Tokyo's Stance on Building Regional Ties Viewed

OW1711002295 Tokyo NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN in Japanese 15 Nov 95 Morning Edition p 3

[FBIS Translated Text] The Japanese Government, which considers the bilateral security treaty with the United States the main axis of its diplomatic stance, believes that building a regional security framework in Asia "will take quite a while, because, even in Europe, it took 20 years" to build such a framework. It is widely believed that for the time being the government has no choice but to continue such earnest efforts as trying to foster mutual trust among countries in the region. In particular, the government considers the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum, which U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry has stressed should be a venue for security dialogue, as a "forum specializing in economic affairs," considering the countries participating in it. There are also concerns that the U.S. inclination toward building multilateral and regional security frameworks could change the nature of the Japanese-U.S. security arrangement. Therefore, the government is maintaining a cautious stance on the issue of building a regional security framework.

Regarding building a security framework for the Asia-Pacific region, the Japanese Government's basic strategy is to work to foster mutual trust among countries in the region and prevent conflicts via foreign ministerial-level talks at the "ASEAN Regional Forum" (ARF). While Taiwan and Hong Kong, which do not belong to the ARF, are APEC members, Russia and the EU, which cannot be left out of an Asia-Pacific security dialogue, have membership only in the ARF. Consequently, the government maintains a two-pronged approach to handling economic affairs in APEC and security affairs in the ARF.

Regarding Perry's intentions in his comments linking APEC to security affairs, the government has made the following analysis: 1) If APEC leaders should gather, aside from the actual APEC conference itself, it is natural for security affairs to be on their agenda; and 2) in the sense that economic development contributes to regional security, APEC could be considered a broad framework for security. In this way, the government stresses that basically there is no difference between its stance and that of the U.S. defense secretary.

Meanwhile, regarding security dialogue among Japan, the United States, and the PRC, the government maintains that "the security dialogues between Japan and the United States, who are allies; between the United States and the PRC; and between Japan and the PRC are of different natures." Therefore, the government argues that the need to implement measures fostering mutual trust among a number of nations and the importance of the Japanese-U.S. security arrangement should not be debated at the same level.

Editorial on 'Redefinition' of Security Alliance

OW1711005595 Tokyo MAINICHI SHIMBUN in Japanese 16 Nov 95 Morning Edition p 5

[Editorial: "Take More Initiative in the Debate on the Japan-U.S. Security Alliance"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Ministry of Foreign Affairs [MOFA] is a government office that specializes in verbal manipulation. Since every word and sentence in the provisions of a treaty affects the fate of the nation, such is MOFA's forte. However, sometimes we are disturbed by the thought that MOFA may be using this skill not with foreign countries, but with the Japanese people. The ongoing "redefinition" of the Japan-U.S. security alliance is one such case.

The Japan-U.S. summit meeting will be held on 20 November. A "redefinition" of the alliance from a reexamination of the bilateral security treaty will be announced after the meeting. Bureaucrats of both countries have worked on this for more than a year.

However, MOFA never uses the term "redefinition." It claims that this will merely be a "reconfirmation," because nothing new will be added.

Is this true? There have been unusually frequent contacts between officials of Japan and the United States in the past year. Assistant Secretary of Defense Joseph Nye, known for the Nye Initiative, and other senior U.S. government officials have come to Japan frequently and have continued to make contact with top Japanese officials and powerful politicians. The United States has conveyed the message that the "redefinition" of the security alliance will be an epochmaking event in the post-Cold War era that will bring the 21st Century into perspective.

According to news reports, the bilateral security alliance will be transformed into a framework for contributing to global stability. This is obvious from the Defense Department's "East Asia Strategic Report," commonly known as the Nye Initiative, and the "Japan-U.S. Security Report." The Nye Initiative says: "The Japan-U.S. relationship forms the foundation of U.S. security policies in the Pacific, as well as of its global strategic goals."

Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama's statement last January at the Japan-U.S. summit talks that "the Japan-U.S. security alliance is necessary for stability and order in Asia and the Pacific" foreshadowed this. From Nye's point of view, the U.S. strategy is an extension of such thinking.

At that time, we pointed out the great significance of this statement and asked the government for an explanation. However, MOFA simply kept quiet. Was the prime minister in fact aware of the great importance of what he had said?

There was once a heated debate in the Diet on the geographical delineation of the "Far East" as mentioned in Article VI of the security treaty. It was a debate on the permissible sphere of action for U.S. military activities originating from bases in Japan. Despite the great sensitivity of the issue, why is the Far East being expanded to "Asia and the Pacific" and further to "a global scale" without any explanation at all?

The reason Governor Masahide Ota of Okinawa has repeatedly called for reduction of U.S. bases is that he has sensed an attempt to make the U.S. bases permanent through a "redefinition" of the security alliance. However, the government has consistently ignored him.

Nye said in late October, when he was summoned to testify in the U.S. Congress in connection with the rape of a schoolgirl in Okinawa, "Think of Japan 10 years from now."

The intent of Nye's remark is obvious. He is asking Japanese politicians to choose between contributing to regional stability and peace through the bilateral security alliance and relying on Japan's own defense capability — and to choose before the world and the Japanese people.

Nye's remark closely reflects the U.S. Government's irritation. In the past year, Nye fought with Americans who claim the security allliance is now unnecassary and has dedicated all his energy to the "redefinition" of the bilateral security alliance. For this reason, he must have greatly resented the Japanese government's vacillation as the result of the Okinawa incident.

However, we cannot help sensing a logical leap and a hidden threat in Nye's remark. We say "a logical leap" because we are well aware of the U.S. strategy. We have studied the Nye Initiative closely. However, this is the United States' strategy and not Japan's. Although we know foreign affairs officials on both sides have held numerous consultations on the Nye Initiative, the Japanese government has never — not even once — explained to the people what has transpired.

We say a "hidden threat" because the remark is a challenge to the Japanese public's deep-rooted wariness about arms buildups. Nye's asking if Japan is ready to seek "cancellation of the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty and buildup of independent defense capability" is a warning to peace-oriented trends in Japan and other East Asian nations. But we believe there must be other choices.

Roughly speaking, the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty consists of mutual acceptance of Articles V (protection of Japan) and VI (preparation of military facilities). To maintain security in the Far East, Japan provides bases for U.S. forces, and the United States protects Japan. It is a historical fact that the security treaty has contributed a lot to Japan's economic growth by lightening security burdens.

The United States obtains several benefits, too. Security ties with Japan were good for containing the communist bloc led by the former Soviet Union. The United States satisfied its national interests in East Asia, prevented revival of Japanese militarism, and won the confidence of the international community as the power balancer in Asia.

However, both the Japanese and the U.S. public feel the bilateral security treaty has become much less significant since the sudden end of the Cold War. The United States blames Japan's "free ride" on Article V, and Japan thinks Article VI is "unprofitable for Japan." This kind of mutual misunderstanding is very dangerous for both countries. Under such circumstances, the topic of "updating" bilateral ties has come up on the agenda, and we consider it a matter of course.

Nevertheless, neither the ruling coalition nor Shinshinto (New Frontier Party) will fully discuss security issues, due to internal friction. Out of consideration for the fragile coalition government, MOFA has been hiding developments in intergovernmental negotiations.

Nye stated in the introduction to his strategic report: "Security is like oxygen. Nobody cares about it until it runs out." Japanese politicians, as well as the public, should take his warning seriously. We will discuss updating the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty from a standpoint of supporting it.

However, if "updated" security policies are suddenly introduced at the Japan-U.S. summit talks, we should not say, "As you wish." Japan is not an undemocratic country ruled by bureaucrats.

UN Resolution on Nuclear Testing Welcomed

OW1711014295 Tokyo KYODO in English 0125 GMT 17 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Osaka, Nov. 17 KYODO — Japan welcomed Friday [17 November] the adoption of a UN resolution urging an immediate end to nuclear testing which it jointly submitted with 40 other countries.

Foreign Minister Yohei Kono issued a statement welcoming the development, saying the support from many countries for the resolution clearly shows the "serious will" of the international community to call for an end to nuclear experiments.

The latest development will create a favorable environment to promote negotiations on a global test ban treaty, he said.

The resolution was adopted Thursday at the UN General Assembly's first committee which discusses disarmament. Ninety-five countries supported the resolution, 12 opposed and 45 abstained from the voting.

Kono said Japan will continue to urge China and France to stop nuclear testing and to seriously take into account the sincere will of the international community.

China has conducted two underground nuclear tests this year, while France also continues to carry out a series of tests in the South Pacific.

Kono later told reporters it is "very meaningful" that many European countries supported the resolution.

The 95 supporters of the resolution included Belgium, Denmark, Italy, Ireland, Sweden and Norway.

A Foreign Ministry official said such support was a pleasant surprise for Japan, which had initially expected that European nations would either oppose the resolution or abstain from voting in consideration for their relations with France.

"We had been prepared (for lack of European support for the resolution)," said the official. "But we were surprised that so many European countries supported it in the voting."

Kono said that although 45 countries abstained from voting, many of them had voiced opposition to testing of nuclear weapons in various bilateral talks with Japan.

He said he would state Japan's opposition to nuclear tests in his talks with Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen later in the day.

MCA Chief Interviewed on Korean Colonial Rule

OW1711115095 Tokyo MAINICHI SHIMBUN in Japanese 17 Nov 95 Morning Edition p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] Masaaki Nakayama, director general of the Management and Coordination Agency [MCA], gave an exclusive interview to MAINICHI SHIMBUN on 16 November. He talked about his determination to abide by the prime minister's statement on apologizing and repenting for Japan's colonial rule of Korea, and his plans for administrative reform and deregulation.

[MAINICHI SHIMBUN] What do you think of Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama's statement on 15 August?

[Nakayama] My own feelings conform exactly with the prime minister's statement, which apologizes and expresses remorse for the colonial rule of Korea. Japan committed the serious mistake of colonizing the Korean peninsula. It annexed another country for 36 years and caused great hardships. Although Japan was the culprit, it was not partitioned, and instead, the Korean peninsula was partitioned at 38 degrees [north latitude]. This remains a major issue in world politics today.

[MAINICHI SHIMBUN] Can you describe your determination to implement administrative reform?

[Nakayama] It is time to take up the task with determination. With Japanese international credibility slipping after the collapse of the bubble economy, the world is seriously concerned that the Japanese banking crisis may become a black hole for the world. Although the reorganization and consolidation of special public corporations will surely cause some pain to the parties involved, we are now at a critical point where decisions will have to be made based not on selfish interests, but solely in the interests of the whole nation.

We have taken major measures such as the partitioning and privatization of the Japan National Railways, but we also have to think about what to do after that. Economic recovery, administrative reform and deregulation are integral parts of an organic whole. The MCA has a major role to play as the state's fountain of wisdom.

[MAINICHI SHIMBUN] What is your thinking on deregulation and decentralization of power?

[Nakayama] What needs to be scrapped should be scrapped, and what needs to be made more efficient should increase its efficiency. A report will come out by February 1996. Based on this report, and with the help of both the ruling and opposition parties, I think [administrative reform] should be taken up as an issue for all politicians and for the whole nation.

With respect to the decentralization of power, I think there is the question of the disparity of the size of local administrative units, and the question of disparity among prefectures. For example, the city of Osaka (which is my constituency) has a budget bigger than Osaka Prefecture. I think the lack of balance is also a problem in local administration. My feeling is the problem of the prefectures has not changed much since the abolition of feudal clans and the establishment of prefectures [during the Meiji period]. I think the national government should also recognize this as a problem in the process of decentralization of power.

Tokyo Welcomes PRC's White Paper on Defense

*OW1711034095 Tokyo KYODO in English
0319 GMT 17 Nov 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Nov. 17 KYODO — Japan on Friday [17 November] welcomed China's first-ever release of a white paper on defense as a favorable step toward increasing information about the nation's military forces.

"We welcome China's move to make clear its defense policy and increase its transparency," Chief Cabinet Secretary Koken Nosaka told a news conference.

Thursday's release of the defense paper is a product of Tokyo's consistent efforts to urge Beijing to tell the world more about its military forces, which are viewed as a potential threat to East and Southeast Asia, said Nosaka, Japan's top government spokesman.

He said Japan will study in detail the substance of the white paper, in which China contends that its military has a purely defensive role.

China's Qian, Kono Discuss Mutual Ties

*OW1711093695 Tokyo KYODO in English
0908 GMT 17 Nov 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Osaka, Nov. 17 KYODO — China's Foreign Minister Qian Qichen urged the Japanese Government Friday [17 November] to display leadership in correctly acknowledging Japan's past aggression, a Foreign Ministry official said.

Qian told Japanese Foreign Minister Yohei Kono, "It is natural that there are various opinions in a society. But what is important is that the leadership take the initiative."

The two men met for 30 minutes in Osaka, where they were attending a series of meetings of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum.

Qian was apparently referring to recent history remarks by Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama and a cabinet minister.

Murayama said that the 1910 Korea-Japan annexation treaty was signed in a legally valid manner, while Management and Coordination Agency chief Takami Eto said Japan did some good things during its 1910-1945 colonial rule of the Korean peninsula. Eto resigned Monday in the face of South Korea's anger about the comments.

The Chinese foreign minister told Kono the government should correctly educate young people on the country's past role by looking from a long-term perspective. "We should look toward the future, but to do so, we have to face squarely with the past," he was quoted as saying.

Kono agreed with Qian and said the Japanese Government's stance on historical acknowledgement is clearly shown in Murayama's statement issued Aug. 15 on the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II, according to the official.

In the statement Murayama said "Japan, following a mistaken national policy...and, through its colonial rule and aggression, caused tremendous damage and suffering to the people of many countries, particularly to those of Asian nations."

"Now that Japan has come to enjoy peace and abundance, we tend to overlook the pricelessness and blessings of peace. Our task is to convey to younger generations the horrors of war, so that we never repeat the errors in our history," the statement said.

Referring to Chinese President Jiang Zemin's recent trip to South Korea, the Chinese foreign minister told Kono that China merely offered its views on Japanese politicians' history remarks and did not agree with Seoul to take joint action against Japan, according to the official.

At a joint press conference with Jiang, South Korean President Kim Yong-sam said he and the Chinese leader were equally critical of the Japanese remarks.

In three-way talks among foreign ministers of Japan, South Korea and the United States, South Korea's Kong No-myong also denied that Seoul and Beijing have agreed to take joint action against Japan, another Japanese Foreign Ministry official said.

Referring to a UN resolution urging an end to nuclear testing, which was adopted in New York on Thursday, Kono urged China to end nuclear tests and to make efforts for an early conclusion of a global test ban treaty.

Kono told Qian he hopes Beijing will seriously consider the international community's stance against nuclear experiments, which was reflected by the adoption of the resolution.

Qian replied that China is actively taking part in negotiations on the comprehensive test ban treaty, the official said in a briefing to reporters.

Hashimoto, Amnuai Agree on Indochina Program

*OW1711123195 Tokyo KYODO in English
1133 GMT 17 Nov 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Osaka, Nov. 17 KYODO — Japan agreed with Thailand on Friday [17 November] to further cooperate in supporting Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar [Burma] as part of a joint economic development program between Tokyo and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), a Japanese official said.

International Trade and Industry Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto and Thai Deputy Prime Minister Amnuai Wirawan said they highly appreciated a working group set up by Japan and ASEAN in September to back up the three countries' economic development programs, the official said.

Hashimoto and Amnuai struck the accord as part of a series of bilateral talks being held on the occasion of the Osaka meetings of the 18-member Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum.

Japanese and ASEAN economic ministers established the working group, called the CLM-working group, during regular meetings in Brunei in September.

They adopted a program calling for creation of several working groups to promote market-oriented economies and reinforce infrastructure in Southeast Asia.

Amnuai also urged Japan to increase imports of Thai rice by opening up its market, the official said.

Regarding the APEC dialogue, which ended two days of ministerial talks Friday after putting finishing touches on the action agenda for trade and investment liberalization among the 18 member economies, Hashimoto and Amnuai agreed to cooperate further to help translate the agenda into action.

Joint Development on Telecom Technology Agreed

OW1711115395 Tokyo NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN in Japanese 13 Nov 95 Evening Edition p 3

[FBIS Translated Text] Japan, the United States, Canada, and the European Union (EU) have agreed to start the joint development of next-generation satellite communications technology sometime around next spring. The joint project is aimed at helping establish a worldwide communications system capable of dealing with data-transmission capacities that are several tens of times larger than the current ones, Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications [MPT] officials said. Under the project, they will cooperate in developing not only technology for connecting the new system to wired communications networks on the ground, and connecting local area networks (LAN) that exist in different countries via satellites, but also for technology that makes film making possible with a remote control system.

The participants in the joint project are government officials and researchers in charge of telecommunications and space technology. From Japan, MPT officials and researchers at the Communications Research Institute placed under MPT will take part in the project. On 14-15 November, the four powers will hold working-level meetings in Hawaii where they are scheduled to reach an official accord on the project. The joint project is expected to last five years, but the technology that will be developed will be open to the private sector soon after it's development.

The EU wants to develop in technology in one to two years that connects different LAN's through satellites because using satellites would be cheaper and quicker than installing optical fibers on the ground to connect LAN's in different countries.

Japan and the United States also plan to develop technology that makes film making possible using satellites. When films are made, for example, film editing work is done at a film studio after recording; the technology Japan and the United States want to develop would enable producers to quickly edit materials recorded in distant countries. If developed, this technology would help produce a greater variety of films in the coming multimedia era.

The joint development plan will materialize with Canada and the EU participating in the "Japan-U.S. joint experimental on high-speed satellites" agreed on for February, and the plan may attract more countries.

Toyota To Construct New Plant in Indiana

OW1611122495 Tokyo NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN in Japanese 7 Nov 95 Morning Edition p 13

[Article called "Radar" by Jin; this installment entitled "Toyota to Build Third U.S. Plant; Fruition of Pledge to U.S."]

[FBIS Translated Text] Toyota Motor Corporation will construct its third U.S. plant in Evansville, Indiana. The company has been saying, since an agreement was reached at Japan-U.S. auto talks, that it would make a decision on location of the plant before this year ends. Toyota and the Indiana State Government have started to make the final coordination aimed at making an official announcement on the decision in early December. Toyota will fulfill its "pledge." As is shown by Daiwa Bank's withdrawal from the United States and other cases, economic relations between the two countries do not have a chance to rest even in areas not related to the auto issue. It seems that the only thing Japanese companies can do now to regain U.S. trust is to translate promises into action.

Since it started to construct the TMM [expansion unknown] Kentucky Plant in 1986, Toyota has been saying that Indiana will be the place to construct the next-generation plant. There was fierce competition between some states over the issue of inviting Toyota to build the TMM. Indiana eventually lost a "big fish" and expressed its dissatisfaction with Toyota's decision. West Virginia and other states called for construction of the plant in their state. However, it turned out that Toyota finally fulfilled its 10-year obligation to Indiana.

The plant will produce 100,000 medium-sized "T-100" model trucks per year starting 1998. At the Japan-U.S. auto talks, Toyota announced a management plan to produce, starting in 1998, 1.1 million vehicles at its four plants in Canada and the United States. The company said that it was strictly a voluntary plan. But it's employees thought that "it is unavoidable that the announcement may be understood as a pledge." It is certain that the recent decision on selection of a site for construction of the plant will give a strong impression to the United States that Toyota's stance is to "fulfill its pledge."

Despite the agreement reached at the auto talks, there is trouble brewing between Japan and the United States. In particular, the incident in which Daiwa Bank was ousted from the United States may invite other countries' distrust in Japanese companies in general. The only thing Japanese companies can do to undo U.S. distrust is to settle outstanding problems one by one and thereby regain trust.

In auto industry circles, exchanges between U.S. government officials and representatives of Japanese auto makers became notable in the wake of the Japan-U.S. auto talks. In mid-October, USTR General Counsel Ira Shapiro visited Hiroshi Okuda, president of Toyota Motor Co., and said that "the number of auto dealers who sell imported vehicles is not increasing." Primarily speaking, the United States is supposed to talk to the Ministry of International Trade and Industry about matters related to the auto talks. Nevertheless, since the U.S. Government begun to think that "Japan's motive force is not the government but corporations," Japanese manufacturers have no choice but to respond to it in one way or another.

"We will fulfill our pledges." This decision will have some significance if the United States accepts Toyota's decision on the location of a site for construction of its third U.S. plant as a message from Japanese auto industrial circles.

MHW Permitting Imports of Fresh Oysters

OW1611134395 Tokyo KYODO in English
1321 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Nov. 16 KYODO — Japanese consumers will soon be able to eat fresh foreign oysters previously excluded from the country, sources at the Ministry of Health and Welfare [MHW] said Thursday [16 November].

The sources said imports of fresh oysters were previously banned because the ministry was not convinced the waters in which they grew were safe for consumers.

But in response to requests from Australia, New Zealand, and the United States to permit the imports, the ministry has since agreed to accept guarantees of safety from the three countries.

The sources said the Australian oyster industry is expected to submit a formal request to the ministry as early as the end of the year and the ministry will give its approval.

The Australian industry is expected to concentrate its exports in the Japanese summer when the local harvest is at its lowest levels.

In fiscal 1993 to March 31, 1994, for which the latest figures are available, Japan's production of fresh and processed oysters amounted to some 37,000 tons.

Imports of heat-processed oysters are already permitted and some 6,000 tons enter Japan each year mainly from China and South Korea.

North Korea

Radio on U.S.-Japan-ROK Military Alliance

SK1611134195 Pyongyang Korean Central
Broadcasting Network in Korean
0750 GMT 14 Nov 95

[Dialogue between reporters Chong Song-kang and Yi In-chun: "Maneuvers To Revive the Dangerous Tripartite Military Alliance"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Yi] How are you?

[Chong] How are you?

[Yi] The U.S. imperialists, the Japanese reactionaries, and the South Korean puppets have recently and radically expanding bilateral military exchange and contact under the unreasonable pretext of preparing against the so-called threat of southward aggression by the North and further strengthening the tripartite military alliance. I would like to discuss this issue with you at this hour.

[Chong] As has already been reported, the director general of the Japanese Defense Agency recently sneaked into South Korea and stated that the situation on the Korean peninsula was closely linked to the stability of Japan and that Japan and South Korea must join forces. Echoing him, the puppet South Korean defense minister stated that close defense cooperation among South Korea, Japan, and the United States was important.

Previously, as has already been known, the so-called security treaties and defense cooperation were discussed in Hawaii in the talks between the director general of the Japanese Defense Agency and the U.S. defense secretary and in the talks between the puppet South Korean defense minister.

This shows the U.S. imperialists, the Japanese reactionaries, and the puppet South Korean military brass hats frantically seek to strengthen the U.S.-Japan-South Korea tripartite military alliance.

[Yi] That is right. The U.S.-Japan-South Korea tripartite military alliance is the legacy of the Cold-War era. Today, when the Cold War is over, a majority of countries of the world are strongly opposed to the creation of new military blocs. Nevertheless, the U.S. imperialists, the Japanese reactionaries, and the South Korean puppets have sought to revive the tripartite military alliance. It is very obvious that they have done so for the sake of invasion and reinvasion, is it not?

[Chong] The U.S. imperialists' unchanging ambition is to implement their Asia-Pacific strategy and an important component of this strategy, the strategy toward Korea. An important leverage that the U.S. imperialists rely on is the U.S.-Japan-South Korea military alliance.

I think it is necessary for us to disclose why the U.S. imperialists, the Japanese reactionaries, and the South Korean puppets have sought to revive the tripartite military alliance. First of all, the U.S. imperialists, who established the U.S.-Japan- South Korea tripartite alliance by closely combining the U.S.-Japan security treaty, the U.S.-South Korea mutual defense treaty, and the South Korea-Japan treaty, have sought to implement their Asia- Pacific strategy and their strategy toward Korea. In other words, the U.S. imperialists are trying to use the South Korean puppet forces and the Self-Defense Forces in a war of aggression against Korea through the tripartite military alliance. And, with the backing of the U.S. imperialists, the Japanese reactionaries are trying to fulfill their ambition to reinvade Korea and, furthermore, widely open the door toward overseas expansion. At a parade of the Japanese Self-Defense Forces on 29 October, Japanese Prime Minister Murayama raved that the situation surrounding the Korean peninsula was unstable. This sophism shows how wild Japan is running to justify its overseas aggression and launch an overseas aggression.

Meantime, while allowing the United States and Japan to use South Korea as a springboard for their aggression, the South Korean puppets are dreaming of fulfilling their ambition to stay in power for an extended period of time. This is those fellows' ulterior motive.

[Yi] That is right. Last July, South Korean and Japanese authorities held secret consultations in Tokyo to discuss UN peacekeeping operations. And, in August, the command of the U.S. Forces occupying South Korea and the puppet South Korean defense ministry signed a munitions agreement, and, according to the agreement, the U.S. Forces occupying South Korea handed 275 M48 and A5 tanks and approximately 40,000 tonnes of ammunition over to the puppet South Korean armed forces.

[Chong] It is no secret that the United States, Japan, and South Korea already adopted a unified military operational command structure and mapped out joint operational plans. The tripartite military alliance among the U.S. imperialists, the Japanese reactionaries, and the South Korean puppets will endanger peace and security on the Korean peninsula and in Northeast Asia and reverse the overall situation to a Cold War.

The basic trend of the present era is that the confrontational concept of the Cold-War era is disappearing gradually and that peace and detente are moving in. Moreover, we and the United States signed the DPRK-U.S. agreed framework; the issue of normalizing the DPRK-U.S. relations is put on the order of the day; and, as a result, the overall situation on the Korean peninsula is moving toward detente. At this time, the U.S. imperialist aggressors, the Japanese reactionaries, and the South Korean puppets are again speeding up the creation of the tripartite military alliance. This clearly shows that they are still pursuing the policy of strength to crush our Republic behind the curtain of the implementation of the DPRK-U.S. agreed framework.

[Yi] That is right. We cannot tolerate this. While talking about the resumption of North-South dialogue or normalization of relations, the U.S. imperialists, the Japanese reactionaries, and the South Korean puppets say they hope to normalize relations with us. However, the policy of strength and dialogue are not compatible under any circumstances.

The U.S. imperialist warmongers and the ultrarightist Japanese reactionaries use the security of Northeast Asia and the tension on the Korean peninsula as pretexts for crushing our Republic and gaining their sphere of influence in the Asia-Pacific region. And, the South Korean puppets joined forces with them, while talking about a joint strategy toward the North. This is very ominous and intolerable.

[Chong] A contingency on the Korean peninsula about which the U.S. imperialists, the Japanese reactionaries, and the South Korean puppets are raving is a mere pretext and deceptive trick to justify the anti-Republic military collusion by the U.S. imperialists, the Japanese reactionaries, and the South Korean puppets.

It is the U.S. imperialists, the Japanese reactionaries, and the South Korean puppets who aggravate tension and bring the danger of a new war on the Korean peninsula. No one can predict when the large-scale joint military exercises which the U.S. imperialists conduct with the South Korean puppets and the Japanese reactionaries every year will switch over to an actual war.

[Yi] That is right. The formation of the U.S.-Japan-South Korea tripartite military alliance, which has been accelerated in earnest since the DPRK-U.S. agreed framework was adopted, will break an opening in the implementation of the DPRK-U.S. agreed framework and makes it necessary for us to make further efforts to strengthen the self-defensive capability for ensuring the sovereignty and security of the country.

[Chong] That is right. We will not merely remain an onlooker to the prevailing situation but heighten our vigilance for the maneuvers by the U.S. and Japanese reactionaries and the South Korean puppets to revive the tripartite military alliance. Those who committed crimes that run counter to the earnest desire of mankind and the trend of the times will never be free. The U.S. and Japanese reactionaries and the South Korean puppets better clearly know that they can get nothing from the maneuvers to revive the tripartite military alliance and act with discretion.

[Yi] Let us conclude today's discussion.

Foreign Groups Denounce Joint Military Exercise

SK1611100495 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0809 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, November 16 (KCNA) — The Society for the Promotion of the Relations Between Austria and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and director of the Long Press Publishing House of Tanzania F.A. Uyso made public statements respectively on November 8 and 6, denouncing the Foal Eagle 95 joint military exercises staged by the United States and the South Korean puppets.

The statement of the society for the promotion of the relations between Austria and the DPRK urged that the United States put an immediate end to the dangerous military game and solve the problems arising in the peaceful settlement of the Korean issue by means of dialogue with the DPRK.

F.A. Uyso said in the statement that the military game proves that although the United States adopted the DPRK-U.S. agreed framework, it persists in its policy of strength to stifle the DPRK behind the smokescreen of its implementation.

He demanded that the United States and the South Korean authorities immediately stop the Foal Eagle 95 joint military exercises threatening peace in the Korean peninsula and the world.

Commentary Denounces Military Exercise in South

SK1611092495 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean
1220 GMT 14 Nov 95

[Commentary by Kim Ho-sam: "Ambitious Maneuvers To Prepare For a Northward Invasion"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The civilian-led war maniacs of South Korea are more frantically running wild to prepare for a war of northward invasion.

According to a report, the puppet Ministry of National Defense decided recently to lease 20 P-34 training planes from the United States. It also decided to receive logistical support, including warship designing technology and shoulder-anti-air missiles, from France. It is also perpetrating maneuvers to strengthen cooperation with French institutes of military science.

This is another adventurous war preparation maneuver which has vividly revealed the vicious ambition of the civilian-led South Korean war maniacs who are attempting to advance along the road of a war of northward invasion with the support of foreign forces.

In fact, the civilian-led war maniacs' ambition for a northward invasion has reached an extremely grave stage today. As everyone knows, the so-called Foal Eagle-95 joint military exercise — an exercise similar to the Team Spirit joint military exercise which was an adventurous military exercise for a northward invasion, in terms of its scale, equipment, content, and form — is being hotly staged in South Korea.

A joint air strike exercise mobilizing hundreds of military aircraft of various types, is being staged everyday with the aim of staging a sudden preemptive attack against the northern half of the Republic, and a large-scale joint amphibious operation exercise simulating an amphibious operation on the coast of the northern half of the Republic is also being staged frantically.

While frantically staging the adventurous Foal Eagle-95 war exercise, the civilian-led war maniacs of South

Korea are simultaneously staging the violent comprehensive infiltration drill- 95 and various other types of war exercises.

The large-scale river-crossing exercise the puppets staged in the Nam [South] Han River area recently is one such exercise. The puppets are noisily clamoring that this war exercise is being staged to increase the combined combat capabilities of their infantry, artillery, armor, and engineering units, and that they have greatly enhanced the operating capability of combined combat management systems modern, three-dimensional warfare.

Because of the commotions for a frantic war exercise for northward invasion which are being triggered in South Korea everyday, the situation on the Korean peninsula has reached a very dangerous phase in which a war may break out at any time.

This eloquently proves how frantically the South Korean puppets are preparing for a war of northward invasion in collusion with foreign forces.

Needless to say, this decision by the South Korean war maniacs to again receive means of war and logistical support from the United States and France is part of a premeditated and ambitious scheme to accelerate preparations for a war of northward invasion.

Recent moves by the South Korean puppets to further put spurs to the maneuvers for war of northward invasion, is closely related to the serious crisis the rascals face today.

As everyone knows, the Kim Yong-sam ring has completely revealed its dirty true colors as accomplices in the unprecedented slush fund scandal involving traitor No Tae-u. In particular, traitor Kim Yong-sam not only received a huge amount of election campaign funds from traitor No Tae-u, but also received several hundred billion won in political funds directly from businessmen.

The voices of denunciation noting that while No Tae-u received a bribe of 1.6 trillion won for his five-year term of office, traitor Kim Yong-sam has already received more bribes in his three years of office, are increasing among the South Korean people today. This is by no means accidental.

In the three years of the Kim Yong-sam clique's term of office, all fields of South Korean society — political, economic, and cultural fields — have been driven into a unprecedentedly serious crisis, and the whole society is becoming corrupt.

The people's indignation against the Kim Yong-sam clique is rising, and has reached a stage where it may burst out at any time like a volcano.

The Kim Yong-sam clique which has met a serious crisis of ruin is dashing toward the road of an adventurous war of northward invasion in a bid to find a way out for survival. However, this is only a foolish act.

The road of war for northward invasion will never provide a way out for the Kim Yong-sam clique. Rather, it will bring a disgraceful doom of ruin to the Kim Yong-sam clique.

The South Korean war maniacs should look straight at realities and immediately stop their adventurous maneuvers for preparing a war of northward invasion.

Daily Criticizes South's Kim Yong-sam

SK1711043795 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0407 GMT 17 Nov 95

["Puppet's Moves for Showdown Within Nation" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, November 17 (KCNA) — The traitor Kim Yong-sam is going to ask the heads of state of the United States and Japan for a "cooperation system" over the "nuclear issue of the North" and use the relations between the DPRK and the U.S., and between the DPRK and Japan as a lever to "resume inter- Korean dialogue" in league with the United States and Japan, availing himself of an opportunity of participating in the APEC [Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation] meeting to be held in Japan, according to a radio report from Seoul.

Commenting on this, NODONG SINMUN today says this shows that the South Korean puppets have not yet got rid of the bad habit of running wild to do harm to and stifle the fellow countrymen with the fictitious "nuclear issue" of the North.

The news analyst goes on:

The nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula has been produced not by the North but because the United States has deployed more than 1,000 pieces of nuclear weapons in South Korea to threaten us and the South Korean puppets are begging for the U.S. "protection of nuclear umbrella" and cultivating their own "nuclear mushroom" in its shade.

If the Kim Yong-sam group are interested a little in the destiny of the fellow countrymen and truly want the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, they should not bring forward the fictitious "nuclear issue of the North" but raise the withdrawal and dismantlement of the U.S. nuclear weapons and nuclear bases from South Korea.

Kim Yong-sam is foolishly attempting to use the relations between the DPRK and Japan and between the DPRK and the United States as a lever to "resume inter-Korean dialogue", which reveals his black intention to hamper the solution of the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula and put a spoke in the wheel of the progress of the relations between the DPRK and the United States and between the DPRK and Japan.

The facts show well that the projected trip of the traitor Kim Yong-sam cannot be construed otherwise but a tour of treachery to do harm to the fellow countrymen in league with outside forces and a base begging tour aimed at remaining in power under the patronage of outside forces.

NDFSK Chief Comments on South 'Scandal'

SK1611100595 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0819 GMT 16 Nov 95

["'Secret Fund Scandal' Condemned" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, November 16 (KCNA) — The Pyongyang mission of the National Democratic Front of South Korea [NDFSK] called a press conference on Wednesday in connection with the "secret fund scandal" which was brought to light in South Korea.

Chief Yi Chong-sang said that the "slush fund scandal" of the traitor No Tae-u has the indiscernible point at issue, and the traitor Kim Yong-sam, above all, is deeply involved in the scandal. He cited materials in detail to prove that Kim Yong-sam received secret fund.

The crime of the traitor Kim Yong-sam, who received more than 1,000 billion won of secret fund from the traitor No Tae-u and is defending his irregularities, is one of the most grave crimes, Yi Chong-sang said, and continued:

The controversial secret fund in South Korea is an inevitable product of the U.S. policy of colonial domination and a singular crime which can be found only in the U.S. colonies.

The NDFSK and South Korean people will wage a sustained, energetic and courageous struggle against corruption and irregularities in combination with the struggle for the punishment of those responsible for the May 18 Kwangju massacre so as to overthrow the Kim Yong-sam "government", a den of evil, and bring about a new turning-point of independence, democracy and reunification.

Yi Chong-sang gave answers to the questions put by reporters.

South Premier's Missile Exports' Remarks Viewed

SK1711064995 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean
1222 GMT 16 Nov 95

[NODONG SINMUN 16 November commentary: "Traitor's Futile, Reckless Act"]

[FBIS Translated Text] According to a radio report from Seoul, the puppet South Korean prime minister went to Quds [Jerusalem] to attend the funeral for Israeli Prime Minister Rabin and met with this country's acting prime minister. While preposterously talking about our missile export, he agreed with the Israeli acting prime minister to take joint measures to cope with these missile exports.

While attending the funeral in a foreign country, he raved about joint measures or the like in connection with our fictitious missile export case ignoring the atmosphere for cherishing the memory of a deceased person. This is a reckless act that can only be committed by the South Korean puppets, a group of fascists who have no sense of basic ethics and morality and who can not tell what they should or should not do. Needless to say, this is a byproduct of their maneuvers to erode our international influence and cover up and escape from their domestic and foreign isolation and political crisis.

The puppet groundlessly found fault with us by mentioning missile exports and the like. This is a shameless act like an act of a thief turning on the victim with a club. This is also sophism to justify the antinational and bellicose maneuvers by the puppets, who are driving the situation in the country to the brink of war by starting the Foal Eagle-95 fiery war game in collusion with outside forces.

People of the world cannot refrain from expressing their shock and anger over the fact that the puppets, without being satisfied with perpetrating the anti-Republic confrontational maneuvers in South Korea, are even perpetrating similar maneuvers overseas.

Now in South Korea, the slush fund scandal of No Tae-u, the dictator of the Sixth Republic, has been disclosed, causing serious social and political confusion. As the South Korean media and world opinion insist, this scandal has clearly disclosed the falsity of democracy, fair elections, and the civilian regime, propagandized by the South Korean rulers, and clearly disclosed that the reactionary and antipopular character of South Korean politics, is a mere combination of power, money, and conspiracy.

In connection with the slush fund scandal, South Korean conservatives are embroiled in a political feud in which they are biting each other. And, in this process, it was revealed that the traitor Kim Yong-sam received over one trillion won from No Tae-u and wasted it in the presidential campaign. This has escalated the political crisis facing the puppets to the utmost.

Nevertheless, the puppet slandered us and made a fuss even at a funeral in a foreign country. This is nothing but their sinister intention to impair our high international authority and prestige, damage our image, and, thus, drive a wedge between our country and Arab countries and justify South Korea's political and military tie-up with Israel.

The unprecedentedly vicious and harsh human rights violations, anti-Republic confrontational maneuvers, war commotions, and other desperate maneuvers perpetrated by the Kim Yong-sam ring are unanimously denounced and condemned by all fellow countrymen and peace-loving people of the world.

No matter how maliciously the Kim Yong-sam ring may abuse the North, they can never damage the bright image of our Republic and cover up their treacherous nature. Such an act by the puppets, will rather more clearly disclose their political and moral meanness and their colors as betrayers of the nation. It will also further harden the people's determination to eliminate the traitorous Kim Yong-sam clique, which is treacherous, fascist, and corrupt, at an early date. The puppets had better stop committing such foolish acts as stirring up a hornet's nest or causing his own ax to fall on his own foot.

Israel must know that it will get nothing good in favoring the anti-Republic confrontation policy pursued by the Kim Yong-sam ring, who has become the butt of ridicule and denunciation by the South Korean people and fair world opinion, and teaming up with the Kim Yong-sam ring.

Correction to Foreign Ministry Issues Statement

SK1711040995 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2208 GMT 16 Nov 95

[Corrected version of press statement by spokesman for the DPRK Foreign Ministry in Pyongyang on 16 November — read by announcer; originally filed as SK1711021095; explanatory notes describe differences from initial FBIS version]

[FBIS Translated Text] A spokesman for the DPRK Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 16 November issued the following press statement denouncing the Japanese authorities for, one after another, making remarks seriously distorting the history of aggression by Japanese imperialism.

The press statement read:

Some time ago, Takami Eto, chief of the Management and Coordination Agency of Japan, was dismissed from his post due to a big stir at home and abroad caused by his remarks that Japanese imperialism did some good things in Korea in the past.

Prior to this, the Japanese authorities made preposterous remarks that the Japan-Korea Annexation Treaty was legally signed according to mutual agreement between the two sides.

Beginning this year when we mark the 90th anniversary of the fabricated Ulsa Protection Treaty between Korea and Japan, concluded in 1906, the 85th anniversary of the fabricated Japan-Korea Annexation Treaty, and the 50th anniversary of Japan's ruin, the Japanese authorities are successively making absurd remarks that seriously distort the history of Japan's past invasion of Korea. [omitting editorial notation, rewording sentence per monitor recheck] We cannot but regard this as serious.

All facts show that in the Diet resolution and prime minister's statement [changing "ministers'" to "minister's"], the Japanese Government has made a false reflection on the past, and that a modern version of the theory of conquering Korea is openly taking shape in Japan. It is anachronistic for the Japanese authorities to revive their militaristic ghost.

The Japanese authorities should clearly see the changed situations and act with discretion. Today's Korea is not the Korea of the past. [rewording sentence]

Japan should give up its daydream and honestly admit and apologize for historical facts that it cannot cover up nor distort. This will be useful for the restoration of international confidence in it.

Today the two peoples of the DPRK and Korea hope that DPRK-Japan relations will be normalized. While saying that they will improve DPRK-Japan relations, the Japanese authorities are successively making absurd remarks to beautify and justify the history of aggression against and occupation of Korea. On the question of DPRK-Japanese relations, they have failed to make a bold decision, instead following the lead of the South Korean authorities.

Such acts by the Japanese authorities make us suspect ulterior motives.

We will watch [chusi] the attitude of the Japanese Government.

Shell Pacific Enterprises Lease 10 Hectares

SK1711095895 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0756 GMT 17 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Najin-Sonbong, November 17 (KCNA) — A delegation of the Shell Pacific enterprises of Great Britain led by Steven Cox, chief of the Shell office in Beijing, visited the Najin- Sonbong free economic and trade zone of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea from November 14 to 17.

The delegation had visited the zone in June and October.

This time, the delegation inspected the Sungni Chemical Complex, the June 14 thermal power station and Sonbong port to examine the possibilities of investment it had already surveyed.

It directly surveyed the Yongsuri area and decided to lease ten hectares of land for fifty years with a belief that investment would lead to profits.

The Shell decided to invest two million dollars first to build an oil storage and supply system with a capacity of 100,000 tons there.

It also had business talks several times with officials of the DPRK committee for the promotion of external economic cooperation over the construction of a pitch storage site of 1.5 hectares and a wharf for 50,000 tons of heavy oil.

The Shell will soon set about the construction project.

Yi Chong-ok Meets With New Gabonese Ambassador

SK1611100795 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0832 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, November 16 (KCNA) — The new Gabonese Ambassador E.P. [extraordinary and plenipotentiary] to Korea, Joseph Obiang Ndoutoume, presented his credentials to Vice-President of the DPRK Yi Chong-ok at the Mansudae Assembly Hall today.

On hand was Kim Yong-il, vice-minister of foreign affairs.

Yi Chong-ok, after receiving the credentials, had a talk with the Gabonese ambassador.

Kim Chong-il Thanks Export Clothing Plants

SK1611100995 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2100 GMT 15 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The great leader of our party and our people Comrade Kim Chong-il sent thanks to Pyongyang Taesong Clothing Export Goods Plant and Pyongsong Clothing Export Goods Plant commending their contribution to implementing the party's trade-first policy.

The functionaries and working class of Pyongyang Taesong Clothing Export Goods Plant have waged a vigorous labor struggle since early this year with a burning desire to fulfill their duty as revolutionary fighters in the rewarding struggle to thoroughly implement the great leader's behest and the party's intent, and effected a continuous upsurge in production. By so doing, they have accomplished a proud success of overfulfilling the yearly target, which was increased far more than the previous year's target, by 20 percent before the 50th anniversary of the party founding.

The functionaries and working class of Pyongsong Clothing Export Goods Plant fulfilled the yearly target over two months ahead of schedule by keeping the machines in full operation and introducing advanced processing methods with the ardent desire to brilliantly adorn this significant year of marking the 50th anniversary of the party founding with great innovations in production.

The meetings to deliver the thanks sent by the great leader of our party and our people Comrade Kim Chong-il were held at the relevant units.

Comrade So Yun-sok, member of the Political Bureau of the Workers Party of Korea Central Committee, responsible secretary of the South Pyongan Provincial party committee, and chairman of the South Pyongan Provincial People's Committee; functionaries of the relevant sector; and employees of the relevant units were present at the meetings. The thanks sent by the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il were delivered at the meetings amid enthusiastic applause of the participants. Then, debates vowing the resolve of the participants followed. The participants of the meetings adopted letters of resolutions.

Kim Chong-il Sends Equipment to University

SK1711052895 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0343 GMT 17 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, November 17 (KCNA) — The great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il gifted latest-type educational experimental equipment and apparatuses, more than 50,000 items of some 200 kinds, to Kim Il-song University, the supreme seat of chuche education.

The gift carries the warm benevolence and great expectation of respected General Kim Chong-il who has been successfully carrying out the far-sighted plan of the great leader President Kim Il-song, who had not spared anything if it was necessary for education, saying that when pillars of revolution grow stoutly, the country, the motherland would be prosperous and the revolution emerge victorious.

Kim Chong-il Thanks University, Garment Factories

SK1711052995 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0341 GMT 17 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, November 17 (KCNA) — The great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il sent thanks to the teaching staff of Pyongyang Communist University for setting an example in writing and publishing books.

The teaching staff of the university wrote and published the book "Course of Great Guide" in 30 vols. and tens of other books, which record the glorious and brilliant revolutionary history and greatness of our party, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Workers' Party of Korea.

Comrade Kim Chong-il extended thanks to the Taesong Export Garment Factory in Pyongyang and the Pyongsong Export Garment Factory for contributing to the implementation of the foreign trade- first policy of the party.

Foreigners Praise Kim Chong-il's Work

SK1611090295 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0813 GMT 16 Nov 95

["Korean-Style Socialism Is Sure to Win" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, November 16 (KCNA) — The work of the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il "The Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] Is the Party of the Great Leader Comrade Kim Il-song" is a summing up of the 50-year-long proud history of the glorious Workers' Party of Korea which was founded and led by respected Comrade Kim Il-song and a political program of the great Comrade Kim Chong-il to exalt it forever as the party of Comrade Kim Il-song, the vanguard party of the world revolution, said Genaro Ledesma Izquieta, chairman of the People's Front of Workers, Peasants and Students of Peru, when he met with the DPRK ambassador to his country on November 10.

He expressed his admiration at the loyalty and filial duty of Comrade Kim Chong-il who made the celebrations of the 50th WPK anniversary run through respects and reverence for Comrade Kim Il- song, the founder and leader of the WPK, and replete with the determination to implement his ideas and behests to the letter.

He said that the cause of the WPK, Korean-style socialism, is sure to win and the prospect of the global cause of socialism is bright as there is the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Atsushi Akiyama, advisor to the Yamanashi Prefectural People's Council for Japan-Korea Friendship, in an interview with KCNA in Pyongyang, said that the people of the DPRK changed their deep sorrow at the loss of respected President Kim Il-song into strength and courage and are now upholding the leadership of his excellency the great Kim Chong-il with loyalty.

"We are convinced that the Korean people under the wise guidance of his excellency the great Kim Chong-il will certainly win in their endeavours for the construction of Korean-style socialism and for the independent and peaceful reunification of their country", he stressed.

Kim Il-song Monument Unveiled at University

SK1711104895 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0354 GMT 17 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, November 17 (KCNA) — The revolutionary monument "Kim Il-song Political University, Convey Forever" was unveiled at Kim Il-song Political University, the supreme training centre of political workers of the Korean People's Army, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of Pyongyang Institute, the predecessor of the university.

It will hand down to posterity the leadership exploits of the great leader Generalissimo Kim Il-song, respected supreme commander Comrade Kim Chong-il and indomitable Communist revolutionary fighter Comrade Kim Chong-suk in building up a large army of able military and political workers by putting forward the chuche-based ideas of military education and wisely leading teachers and students to their implementation for half a century.

Lt. Gen. Ok Pong-nin said in his speech at an unveiling ceremony held on November 16 that the teaching staff of the university must make contributions to strengthening the political and ideological might of the People's Army by bringing up students to be able political workers strong in idea and faith who resolutely safeguard the party and the leader in the van through the thorough implementation of the party's chuche-based policy of training political cadres, and thus exalt the honor of the university bearing the great name of Comrade Kim Il-song.

At the end of the unveiling ceremony, the participants went round the monument.

Choe Kwang, Others Mark Institute's Anniversary

SK1711044995 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0350 GMT 17 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, November 17 (KCNA) — A meeting of the Ministry of the People's Armed Forces was held here on November 16 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the foundation of Pyongyang Institute by the great leader President Kim Il-song.

Present at the meeting were Marshal of the Korean People's Army [KPA] Choe Kwang, Politburo member of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and minister of the People's Armed Forces; senior officials of the ministry of the People's Armed Forces, generals, officers, and teachers and students of military academies at all levels of the Korean People's Army.

Vice Marshal of the KPA Kim Yong-chun, chief of the General Staff of the KPA, delivered a report.

He recalled that the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song chose the site of the institute and named it Pyongyang Institute on November 17, 1945, and gave a lecture, the first of its kind in history, putting forward highly important tasks of the institute on January 3, 1946, when the construction of the institute was completed and opened.

The reporter said that the days of founding, strengthening and developing the institute recorded the loving care of Comrade Kim Il- song, who showed deepest trust in and affection for the teachers and students. Comrade Kim Il-song took good care of the work and living of the teachers and students as their tender-hearted teacher and parent, he said.

It was thanks to the wise guidance and loving care of Comrade Kim Il-song that the institute has been strengthened and developed into a reliable cadres training centre with well-ordered military training system and all educational facilities in a short period, which could train students to be hardcore members of the regular Armed Forces with credit, he said, and went on:

The respected Supreme Commander Comrade Kim Chong-il, who attended the inaugural ceremony of the institute in company with Comrade Kim Il-song and set up new military universities and academies to meet the requirements of the developing revolutionary armed forces, true to Comrade Kim Il-song's cause of army building, reared many competent commanding officers of services and arms and expert soldiers and experts and technicians successfully, and energetically led all the affairs of the People's Army.

The whole army should get united around the respected Supreme Commander Comrade Kim Chong-il in one mind and remain loyal to his idea and guidance.

Invincible is the just cause of the Korean people and the People's Army who are advancing under the tested and seasoned guidance of the supreme commander, the reporter stressed.

Meetings took place at units of the KPA to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the foundation of Pyongyang Institute by President Kim Il-song.

Proper Construction of Dikes Stressed

SK1611112795

[FBIS Editorial Report] Pyongyang Korean Central Television Network in Korean at 0710 GMT on 4 November carries a seven-minute program entitled "Dikes To Protect Rivers." The program begins with voice-over narration describing the abundant river resources in the DPRK, then broadcasts an interview with Han Taek-pong, a section chief of the River Management Bureau of the National Land Management General Bureau, by an unidentified station announcer.

Han says: "We used to have 50 percent of the total annual rainfall during the rain season, but recently over 80 percent of rainfall has been concentrated in the rain season." Han continues that it used to rain for two to three days continuously during the rain season, but this year "it rained for more than 10 days without stop," thus, explaining the importance of dikes in preventing flood.

Elaborating on the proper construction of dikes, Han first explains that all roots of trees and grass, and corrosives must be cleaned away from the foundation, then, frames need to be inserted between 20-cm layers of soil. Han continues to explain the proper design of a dike using a visual aid, and stresses that in concreting, small pebbles should be used to ensure space is minimized between stones. Han then explains which plants are ideal for planting atop the dikes to prevent being washed away by flood.

Turning to the management of dikes, Han stresses that missing corners and parts of dikes should be repaired in a timely manner. Noting that there are numerous dikes across the country, Han says that the management of dikes cannot be done by relevant functionaries alone, and that "the masses should all pay attention to the management of dikes like masters."

The program concludes with voice-over narration reiterating the importance of dikes for preventing floods.

Founding Anniversary of Military Academies Marked

SK1711104795 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0730 GMT 17 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, November 17 (KCNA) — Meetings were held at Kim Il-song Political University, Kang Kon Military University, Kim Hyong-kwon Military Academy and Kim Chin Military Academy under the Korean People's Army on Thursday to commemorate their 50th anniversary.

Congratulatory letters of the Central Military Commission of the Workers' Party of Korea to the universities and academies were conveyed respectively at the meetings.

The congratulatory letters noted that the military universities and academies, over 50 years since their foundation, have creditably discharged the revolutionary duties given by the party, thus making impressive merits for the party and the revolution, the fatherland and the people.

The congratulatory letters highly praised their teachers and students for the great feats they have performed in carrying out the party's policy of military education with infinite loyalty to the party and the leader and intense devotion to revolutionary duties.

Commemorative reports were made at the meetings.

The reporters stressed that the universities and academies would train a large unit of loyal subjects and filial sons and daughters and a large unit of able military and political officers so as to live up to the great trust and expectation of the party, upholding the militant tasks set forward in the congratulatory letters of the central military commission of the party.

Letters of pledge to Comrade Kim Chong-il, respected supreme commander, were adopted at the meetings.

Symposium of Korean Women's Union Held

SK1711120595 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0742 GMT 17 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, November 17 (KCNA) — A national symposium on the undying feats performed by the respected leader President Kim Il-song and the great leader Comrade Kim Chong- il in building the Korean Democratic Women's Union (KDWU) was held here Thursday on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the union.

Speakers said the immortal exploits performed by the respected leader in strengthening and developing the women's union into a revolutionary union of chuche type are that he established the brilliant traditions of building a revolutionary women's organization and the women's emancipation movement in the flames of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle and founded the KDWU after the liberation of the country.

They stressed that he clarified the basic duty and orientation of activities of the KDWU at every period and every stage of the developing revolution and led the union so wisely that it could fully discharge its mission and duty as a transmission belt and a peripheral organization of the party.

His idea on women's emancipation and women's movement has been creditably carried forward under the wise leadership of respected General Kim Chong-il, the speakers said.

They noted that General Kim Chong-il has steadily strengthened and developed the KDWU into an organization of the leader, a mass political organization of the party, in keeping with the requirement of modelling the whole society on the chuche idea. And he has trained all women to be daughters intensely loyal and filial to the party and the leader and to be reliable members of society who dynamically push one of the two wheels of the Korean revolution, they said.

They called upon all the women's union officials and members to bring about greater miracle and innovations in the worthwhile efforts for prosperity and development of their country and their motherland, united in one mind around respected General Kim Chong- il, cherishing deep in mind the undying leadership feats and greatness of the fatherly leader President Kim Il-song and the respected general.

Tangun Temple on Mt. Myohyang Restored

SK1711120695 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0745 GMT 17 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, November 17 [KCNA] — The Tangun Temple on Mt. Myohyang was restored to the original state under the policy of the Workers' Party of Korea and the government of the DPRK for preserving cultural heritage well.

Mt. Myohyang, one of five famous mountains in Korea, has historic relics associated with the legend that

Tangun, the ancestral father of the Korean nation, cultivated resourcefulness and valour with such martial arts as archery, fencing and spearing.

The great leader President Kim Il-song verified Tangun as an actual being and the founder of Korea and taught on several occasions that historic relics related to Tangun in Kangdong County and Mts. Kuwol and Myohyang should be arranged well.

The great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il indicated in detail the orientation and ways of restoring the Tangun Temple on Mt. Myohyang to the original state, true to the behests of President Kim Il-song.

The Tangun temple has been erected in a natural cave on the 860- metre-high southern mid-slope of Hyangno Peak of Mt. Myohyang.

The Tangun temple is a shrine of Korean style with crane-shaped roof, three rooms in the front and one room in the side. There are an altar and a picture of Tangun in the room where religious services were performed.

Former War Correspondent Praises North

SK1711120895 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0753 GMT 17 Nov 95

["'Our Country Is Blessed With Great Party' article by former KPA war correspondent" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, November 17 (KCNA) — Yi In- mo, a former war correspondent of the Korean People's Army, wrote an article titled "Our Country Is Blessed With Great Party."

He was kept in prison for 34 years in South Korea for his refusal to be converted, before his repatriation to the DPRK in March 1993.

In the article, he said among other things:

Witnessing the military parade and the demonstration of a million people, the mass gymnastic display of 50,000 students and pupils and the torchlight procession of 100,000 youths and students held to mark the 50th anniversary of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK], I keenly felt the strength of our party united around the great General Kim Chong-il with a single heart. I also deeply thought how fortunate I am to be a member of this great party.

I think that thanks to this great party, I could return from hell to this paradise and enjoy all happiness today in the dusk of my life.

I did not understand the greatness of our party theoretically, but I realised it through my own experience. Now it has become my unshakable faith.

The party is great because the leader is great.

When people join a party, they first think of the leader of the party. The case is the same with me. When I joined our party, I thought of General Kim Il-song, whom I had worshipped as my "god" since the pre-liberation days, and applied for membership of his party.

All members of the Workers' Party of Korea believe in their party and the leader. The North Korea-born unconverted long-term prisoners in South Korea are all conscious of being members of a great party and pledge to live as such.

It is said that a party is modelled after its leader and a party member after his party. Our party is great in that it has trained its members to have a strong faith.

Our party brought me back in March 1993 when Korea was in a touch-and-go situation and a big war was on the verge of outbreak due to the campaign of the imperialists over a fiction of nuclear issue. The great leader President Kim Il-song personally gave me a party member certificate that I had wished to keep. In the course of this, I felt the greatness of our party more keenly.

Our country is blessed with a great party. Thanks to this great party, Korea has become a powerful country that has a great, strong ideology and a unique weapon — singlehearted unity. Under its leadership, Korea enjoys admiration from all people as the centre of the revolutionary world.

Blessed with a great party, Korea is endlessly prospering as a "Country Where the People Are Regarded as God" and the Korean people grow to be perfect, ideal human beings with beautiful spirit, morality and personality.

This blessing is the greatest fortune we enjoy because we have President Kim Il-song, who founded the WPK, a vanguard unit of chuche type, and respected general Kim Chong-il, who is leading the WPK.

If blessed with a party, a country prospers. If not, it goes to ruin.

A country blessed with the leader and the party enjoys eternal prosperity.

It is Korea of Kim Il-song and Kim Chong-il, the greatest in the world, that is blessed with the leader, the party and the people.

KCNA Highlights Film Director's Work

SK1611100695 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0823 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, November 16 (KCNA) — Son Chong-kwon is an able director of

Korea who is well known at home and abroad for his films for children.

He, who had dreamed of becoming an artiste in the days of senior middle school, graduated the Pyongyang University of Dramatic and Cinematic Arts in 1965 and began working with the Korean Scientific and Educational Film Studio as director of films for childhsakm

Since he made the first puppet film "Kkoedong and Yonggiz" based on the theme of war, he has directed more than 60 films for children.

Typical of them are animated cartoons "A Hedgehog Defeats a Tiger," "The Tale of Stone Buddha," "A Fox Driven Out of Village," "A Bear Returns," "The Tale of a Hare," "Cucumber Cultivated by farq fujnlza Wild Boar's Fence," etc.

"Showdown," the 20th part of "The Boy General," is considered to be a typical film showing his skill of direction. It won a good appreciation and Son was awarded a prize of direction at a domestic film festival.

The multi-part animated cartoons "The Boy General" and "The Clever Racoon Dog," which have been produced as masterpieces, are illustrative of his creative ability.

The title of merited artiste was conferred on him in May 1991 for his uninterrupted thinking and rare passion.

He is now busy producing the rest of the 50-part "The Boy General." He is also preparing the production of a film for children which is based on legends of Kumgang, a famous mountain of Korea.

The people hope much from him, who is highly praised for his skill in producing puppet and scissored-paper films and animated cartoons.

South Korea

ROK, U.S. Trade Ministers Meet in Osaka

SK1711110795 Seoul YONHAP in English
1042 GMT 17 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Osaka, Nov. 17 (YONHAP) — International Trade and Industry Minister Pak Chae-yun, now here attending an APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation) ministerial meeting, met U.S. Trade Representative Michael Kantor Friday afternoon to discuss ways to further promote bilateral trade relations.

During the meeting held at the Osaka Royal Hotel, Minister Pak said he welcomes the promotion of trade and investment liberalization on the basis of respecting the diversity of regional countries in different economic development stages.

Pak and Kantor shared the view that the recent satisfactory settlement of the automobile market issue would contribute to the sound development of their countries' trade relations.

Minister Pak asked Kantor for the U.S.'s cooperation in the effort of Korea to join the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

Some 200 Businessmen From 11 Countries Tour Area

SK1611112495 Seoul YONHAP in English
0842 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Nov. 16 (YONHAP) — Some 200 businessmen from 11 countries have recently made field tours of North Korea's Najin-Sonbong free economy and trade zone and expressed their willingness to invest there, a pro-North Korean paper published in Japan reported.

CHOSUN SHINBO, an organ of the pro-Pyongyang Federation of Korean Residents in Japan, was reported by NAEWOE press, the official North Korea watcher here, as saying in its recent edition that some 200 businessmen from 11 countries, including the United States, Britain, Japan, and China, expressed their intention of investment.

Entering the Stalinist state via Yanji City in the Korean autonomous prefecture in Yanbian, China, the businessmen attended a international trade and investment meeting in the Tuman River area last month, according to the report.

Of particular interest to such business circles were the construction of a heliport in the Anju area, Najin International Hotel, rent houses, and Najin International Communication Center, the newspaper said.

The paper further noted that Kim Chong-u, chairman of North Korea's External Economy Cooperation Promotion Committee, has accepted investment proposals from businessmen and has decided to give special benefits to the investors.

Jiang Zemin Visits Pulguk-sa Temple

SK1611075295 Seoul YONHAP in English
0721 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kyongju, South Korea, Nov. 16 (YONHAP) — Chinese President Jiang Zemin visited Pulguk-sa buddhist temple Thursday morning and was received by its deputy head priest Rev. Songta, filling in for head priest Rev. Soljo who is visiting the United States.

Jiang walked 10 minutes to the temple from the Hilton Hotel and looked around the trees ablaze with autumnal tints. He showed an interest in Korean buddhism, asking, "Is this one of the Mahayana Buddhism (greater vehicle buddhism) temples?"

In front of the entrance of Taeungjon, the temple's main hall, Jiang was received for the second time by president of the Korean Chogye Order Rev. Wolju and signed a guest book.

He also appreciated two pagodas — Tabo-tap (many treasures Pagoda) and Sokka-tap (Pagoda of the Buddha) — in front of Taeungjon. After listening to an explaination from Rev. Wolju, Jiang said, "Tabo-tap is so beautiful that it looks womanlike, while Sokka-tap looks manly."

Rev. Wolju conferred a deed of contribution of 48 books printed from the Grand Tripitaka of Koryo on Jiang, who expressed his gratitude.

The Chinese leader then left for Ulsan to make a tour of Hyundai Motor Co. and Hyundai Heavy Industries.

Leaves Cheju Island for Japan

SK1711093195 Seoul YONHAP in English
0909 GMT 17 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Soguipo, Nov. 17 (YONHAP) — Chinese President Jiang Zemin left here Friday afternoon for Japan, ending his five-day official visit to Korea.

Prior to his departure from the Cheju International Airport at 4 PM [0700 GMT], he bid a farewell to Prime Minister Yi Hong-ku over the phone.

Eighty-three aides and entourage members accompanied Jiang to his flight to Tokyo aboard the same special pane while 21 members of his party including party Political Bureau member Ding Guangen are to leave here Saturday morning.

President Departs for Japan to Attend APEC

SK1711030695 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network
in Korean 0200 GMT 17 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Kim Yong-sam left Seoul this morning by a special Air Force plane to attend summit talks of the Third Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation [APEC] to be held in Osaka, Japan.

Since President Kim's visit is of a business-like nature, the President did not give a departure address during the farewell ceremony at Seoul Airport, and the ceremony was held in a simple and plain manner.

President Kim Yong-sam will arrive in Osaka after a short time, and will hold a summit with Australian Prime Minister Keating this afternoon. In the evening, President Kim will invite Korean residents to a gathering for encouragement.

On 18 November President Kim will hold individual talks with Japanese Prime Minister Murayama, Thai Prime Minister Banhan, and U.S. Vice President Al Gore.

The APEC summit talks, that will be attended by heads of state from 18 nations, will be held in Osaka on 19 November. The talks will likely adopt a concrete action guideline for trade within the region and for investment liberalization.

Kim Simplifies Ceremonies Related to Osaka Trip

SK1711034795 Seoul YONHAP in English
0004 GMT 17 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Nov. 17 (YONHAP) — President Kim Yong-sam has cancelled all of his appointments in his schedule when he returns Monday from the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit in Osaka, presidential aides said Friday.

The move is a breaking of the traditional practice of the president hosting a luncheon with leaders from the three branches of government upon return from an overseas trip. Kim has also cancelled his usual breakfast meeting with the cabinet members including the prime minister, which was to be held the day after his return home.

Furthermore, the chief executive will not deliver a departure message Friday morning when he flies to Osaka with the scheduled ceremonies for his send-off and return at the airport to be simplified drastically.

Political observers attributed these moves to the tense political situation following the arrest and confinement of former President No Tae-u.

President Urges End to 'Old-Fashioned Politics'

SK1611092295 Seoul YONHAP in English
0655 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Nov. 16 (YONHAP) — President Kim Yong-sam on Thursday called for an immediate end to "old-fashioned politics" and a convincing Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) victory in the 1996 general elections.

Kim's congratulatory message was read by the chief of his party's Kyonggi provincial chapter at a reorganizing rally of the DLP Manan district chapter in Anyang, Kyonggi Province.

The concurrently DLP president claimed that "old-fashioned politics are dividing the people and national energy despite the fact that the nation is facing a limitless competition (in the international arena) which is hard to overcome even after we stand firmly together.

"We (DLP members) have to make ongoing reforms which will turn the history of the Korean peninsula into a feast in which everyone takes part and become one with the people," Kim emphasized.

"The ruling party should be determined to obtain a victory in the general election next year, and I will do my best to help the party to victory," Kim said.

President Says Arrest 'Unfortunate and Shameful'

SK1611142795 Seoul KBS-1 Television Network in Korean 1223 GMT 16 Nov 95

[Report by Kim Chong-chin]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Kim Yong-sam received a verbal report on the issuance of a warrant for the arrest of former President No Tae-u from Kim Yong-su, chief secretary for civil administration, at 1900 [1000 GMT] this evening and he simply stated that it is an unfortunate and shameful incident, Chongwadae [presidential offices] Spokesman Yun Yo-chun said.

Commenting on the arrest of former President No Tae-u, Yun said the slush fund scandal could be disclosed because of the swift practice of the real-name financial transaction system thanks to President Kim's clear decision. He also said the unfortunate incident in which a former president was arrested on charges of having received bribes should serve as a blessed occasion to hasten the construction of a clean and healthy society. Yun hoped the prosecution will clear all suspicions anchored by the people through a complete and fair investigation, supporting its reputation as the main investigating organ of the country on this case.

Prior to this, President Kim, leader of the Democratic Liberal Party [DLP], was briefed on the weekly party activity plans by party Chairman Kim Yun-hwan at Chongwadae and discussed with him the direction to take in operating the ruling party following the legal proceedings of former President No.

It has been learned that in today's report on party activity plans, DLP Chairman Kim Yun-hwan expressed the view that, with No's arrest, the political circles should return to their original duty of dissipating the people's anxiety and stabilizing the political situation, and should perform systematic reforms to eradicate the evil customs of the old era and separate politics from the economic circles.

No Tae-u Spends First Night at Detention Center

SK1711085195 Seoul YONHAP in English 0837 GMT 17 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Nov. 17 (YONHAP) — Once the president, but now a prisoner, ex-chief executive No Tae-u met his first morning with a roll call at the Seoul Detention Center in Uiwang city as other prisoners in the jail did.

After he awoke, No was called out at 6:30 AM sharp Friday, in an isolated cell measuring four pyong [one pyong equals 3.3 square meters], a detention official said, who added that the former president ate breakfast alone in his cell at 7:50 AM and then took a morning exercise in an isolated physical training room.

The meal consisted of boiled rice, cereal, and frozen pollack soup, most of which No ate, according to the official.

In contrast to the way that most prisoners toss about on their beds during their first night of imprisonment, No seemed to have rested on the bed comfortably Thursday night, the source said.

Meanwhile, the former president is known to be wearing a white-colored Korean dress reportedly prepared by his family and carrying a four-digit inmate serial number.

Switzerland Accepts Request for Cooperation

SK1711031195 Seoul YONHAP in English 0243 GMT 17 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Berlin, [city as received] Nov. 16 (YONHAP) — The Swiss Federal Police announced Thursday that it has accepted Seoul's request for judicial cooperation in relation to ex- South Korean president No Tae-u's alleged bank accounts in Swiss banks.

Swiss police sources said that their federal prosecution will directly take charge of the cooperation between the two governments.

The Swiss Embassy in Seoul formally accepted the written request for judicial cooperation from the Foreign Ministry there earlier that day, according to the Swiss police.

The South Korean prosecution had asked the Swiss authorities through the Foreign Ministry to provide information on whether No or 20 other people involved in the slush fund scandal have stashed illicit money in Swiss banks, the sources said.

The Swiss police is now studying whether the South Korean Government's request meets the requirements for an international judicial cooperation, they said.

DLP Urges Kim Tae-chung To Retire

SK1711033095 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 17 Nov 95 p 2

[FBIS Transcribed Text] An acute inter-party dispute over campaign funds in the 1992 presidential election resurfaced when the National Assembly held a plenary session to deal with various bills yesterday.

Ruling party lawmakers urged opposition leader Kim Tae-chung to retire from politics while their main opposition counterparts demanded President Kim Yong-sam disclose the amount of his campaign funds.

Five lawmakers of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party took the floor and engaged in character assassination of opposition leader Kim.

They said they suspected that opposition leader Kim may have received more money from former President No Tae-u than he admitted.

Rep. Hwang Myong-su of the ruling party claimed that Kim Tae- chung is the politician who ignored popular aspirations for a single opposition presidential candidate in 1987 and received black money from No during his unsuccessful bid for the presidency in 1992.

Reps. Pak Chu-chon and Pak Myong-hwan said opposition leader Kim should end his political career to hold himself responsible for his role in the No slush fund scandal.

Last month, Kim Tae-chung confessed that he had received 2 billion won from No during his presidential campaign and demanded President Kim Yong-sam follow suit.

Lawmakers of Kim Tae-chung's main opposition National Congress for New Politics countered the ruling party's attack, accusing President Kim of avoiding public demand that he disclose the amount of his campaign funds.

They also called on ruling party lawmakers to stop what they called slandering their party leader Kim Tae-chung.

Rep. An Tong-son of the main opposition party said President Kim should know that no one believes his claim that he did not receive campaign funds directly from No.

"We advise President Kim disclose the whole truth about the amount of his campaign funds. That is the only way to calm down public outrage," Rep. An said.

Rep. Kim Yong-chin of the opposition party attributed the cause of the No scandal to a three-party merger between No's ruling party and two opposition parties led by Kim Yong-sam and Kim Chong-pil in 1990.

The lawmaker called for a National Assembly hearing to dig into corruption committed under the No government.

But lawmakers of the opposition Democratic Party attacked both the ruling and the main opposition party.

Rep. Chong Ki-ho said the ruling and the main opposition party are trying to gloss over No's corruption by focusing on campaign funds.

Referring to the controversial campaign funds, Prime Minister Yi Hong-ku said Wednesday that the prosecution will find out how much No spent to finance political leaders' election campaigns.

"The campaign funds will be disclosed as the prosecution is planning to probe into how former President No spent his slush fund," Yi said in a session of the National Assembly's Budget Settlement Committee.

The prime minister also said the government is determined to clear up suspicions about the slush fund scandal through a fair probe.

But Prime Minister Yi declined a proposal by opposition lawmakers that the nation hold a referendum on the appointment of a special prosecutor to delve into the political corruption scandal.

"The prosecution's probe into the scandal is not politically motivated," Yi said.

He said he will resign from his post if the prosecution fails to conduct a thorough and unbiased probe into the No case.

After the clash between ruling and opposition lawmakers over campaign funds, the National Assembly approved 16 bills, including the revised customs tariff law.

The National Assembly also adopted a resolution opposing the additional opening of domestic farm markets by Asian leaders attending the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit in Osaka, Japan.

Kim Tae-chung To Wage 'All-Out War' on Attacks

SK1711033495 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 17 Nov 95 p 2

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Opposition leader Kim Tae-chung yesterday vowed to wage an all-out war on what he called President Kim Yong-sam's plot to destroy him politically.

"I have suffered from past authoritarian governments' attempts to destroy my political life. And now President Kim is plotting to destroy me," said the opposition leader.

He said that he will expose President Kim's wrongdoings if he keeps suppressing his opposition party.

"I've had enough. I will fight to the end against these malicious schemes," said Kim, president of the main opposition National Congress for New Politics (NCNP).

His intensified attack against President Kim came after ruling party leaders demanded he retire from politics for accepting money from former President No Tae-u.

Earlier, Kim admitted that he took 2 billion won from No during his unsuccessful presidential campaign in 1992.

He also demanded President Kim reveal how much he received from No and alleged that the President took much more than he did in the 1992 presidential election.

President Kim has denied the allegation, saying that he did not receive even a penny personally from his predecessor No.

"We have secured a person who can tell the truth about President Kim receiving as much as 200 billion won from No. But he is afraid to state this in public for fear of persecution," said the NCNP leader.

In line with its leader's stepped-up offensive, lawmakers of the main opposition party issued a statement demanding President Kim share responsibility for the slush fund scandal with No.

"As the executive chairman who took care of party affairs of No's governing party, President Kim should also take responsibility for the crime," said the statement.

The opposition lawmakers demanded to hold a parliamentary hearing to shed light on the wrongdoings committed during the No administration.

Meanwhile, the minor opposition Democratic Party urged the prosecution to summon close family members and in-laws of No to investigate their involvement.

Adopting a resolution calling for a thorough investigation into the No scandal, the party said all the money illegally raised by No should be forfeited.

Opposition Expands Charges Against President

SK1711054395 Seoul YONHAP in English 0525 GMT 17 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Nov. 17 (YONHAP) — The main opposition National Congress for New Politics (NCNP) did not let up on its offensive against the ruling camp the day after former President No Tae-u was arrested on graft charges.

The opposition party again urged President Kim Yong-sam Friday to reveal the amount of funds he received from No for his 1992 presidential election campaign as well as alleging that the chief executive's second son, Kim Hyon-chol, has indirectly been managing his father's illicit properties.

In particular, the NCNP plans to call on Supreme Public Prosecutor Kim Ki-su in a few days and urge him to investigate former Government Administration Minister So Sok-chae and former Lawmaker Yi Won-cho in connection with the No case.

NCNP Spokesman Pak Chi-won asserted, "It is due to a prearranged scenario of investigation that no details of the presidential election campaign funds have been revealed despite a lengthy probe of No." He also demanded that President Kim disclose the campaign funds that he has been accused of receiving from No.

Park claimed that his party has secured a piece of information that Kim Hyon-chol has been managing his father's illicit properties using a certain Pak as a front. In its support of the allegation, the NCNP has secured documents of the Pak's functions as well as copies of registration documents of the properties in question, he added.

Indicating that the main opposition party will launch a major exposure campaign, the NCNP spokeman announced, "Our party's fact-finding committee has received additional specific information," adding, "Upon confirming the allegations, we will urge the people involved to clarify their suspected wrongdoings."

Prosecution Arrests Ex-President's Aide

SK1711072495 Seoul YONHAP in English 0629 GMT 17 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Nov. 17 (YONHAP) — The prosecution arrested Yi Hyon-u, 57, chief security guard under former President No Tae-u, Friday morning on graft and other charges.

The prosecution said that the ex-presidential security chief was suspected of receiving at least 590 million won (about 768,000 U.S. dollars) for himself from bankers and businessmen.

Judge Yi Hung-ku of the Seoul District Court issued the arrest warrant.

According to the prosecution, the ex-presidential security chief received 290 million won from Dong-ah business group Chairman Choe Won-sok in return for helping the tycoon win a project to construct a submarine base in Chinhae port.

Yi is accused of receiving 90 million won from Yi Chong-wan, chief of Youngjin Construction Co., in return for pledging support for the company's bids in military-related tenders.

The former public servant is also accused of having accepted 210 million won from the then chief of Donghwa Bank An Yong-mo as a reward for depositing 100 billion won of No's slush funds with his bank in March 1991, the prosecution said.

Yi Hyon-u is also under suspicion of having received a 2 billion won bribe in relation to an order placed by the Korea Electric Power Corporation for construction of a thermoelectric power plant in boryong, according to prosecution officials.

Plan Studies Suspending Honorary Treatment

SK1711084795 Seoul YONHAP in English
0824 GMT 17 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Nov. 17 (YONHAP) — The government and the ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) plan to suspend honorary treatment of ex-presidents beginning with No Tae-u in the event of his conviction.

To that end, they plan to have the current regular National Assembly session approve a revision bill of the law governing honorary treatment of former chief executives.

A plan under study calls for resuming such privileges if and when a convicted ex-president is pardoned, according to Government Administration Minister Kim Ki-chae Friday.

Whether or not to resume honorary treatment for a convicted former president who has completed his prison term without being pardoned, however, has yet to be determined.

"Even if the honorary treatment law is amended, it won't be retroactive," Minister Kim said, "accordingly, it will be applied beginning with No."

On the scope of convictions requiring the suspension of honorary treatment, he said, "It will be confined to a sentence of no less than a three-year imprisonment for violation of serious crimes like insurrection."

Referring to an amendment bill submitted to parliament by an opposition party which calls for the suspension of honorary treatment in case "when one has substantially disgraced national honor," Kim asserted that the proposed provision is "inappropriate because it leaves too much room for arbitrary interpretations."

The government and the DLP also plan to push ahead a revision to the presidential security office law which would curtail the period of security guards to ex-presidents to five years from the present seven years after finishing their term in office.

The plan under study, however, calls for providing security guards to a convicted ex-chief executive "for the certain period of time" to protect confidential information of the state.

The administration and the ruling party are set to hold a consultative meeting next week to make the final touches on proposed revision bills concerning the laws governing the honorary treatment of former presidents and the presidential security force.

Government, DLP To Conduct 'Sweeping' Reforms

SK1711035995 Seoul YONHAP in English
0240 GMT 17 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Nov. 17 (YONHAP) — With the arrest of former President No Tae-u on bribery charges Thursday, the government and the ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) will embark on sweeping political reforms intended to sever collusive links between politics and business, among other things.

The ruling party feels the need to settle the political turmoil caused by No's slush fund scandal at the earliest possible date for early normalization of political relations between the ruling and opposition camps, informed sources said Friday.

Accordingly, the sources added that the DLP will recommend both political and legal measures for government reforms to President Kim Yong-sam when he returns from the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Japan next week.

Among the measures will be a self-purification declaration by politicians, revisions of election and political fund-related laws to ensure uncostly elections and clean politics, amendments of tax and other laws to stamp out business and political corruption, reshuffle of key government and DLP leaders, and President Kim's address to the nation on political reforms, according to the sources.

Following the first-ever arrest of a former head of state in the nation's history Thursday evening, President Kim expressed his regret of No's arrest as a disgrace to the nation.

In a statement issued after No's detention, a Chongwadae [presidential offices] spokesman said, "This unfortunate event must be made to provide an opportunity of bringing about a blessing, a clean and wholesome society (in this country)," suggesting that President Kim will display strong willpower to reform the nation's politics.

Chief executive Kim, concurrently DLP president, said the politics of the past era must be done away with as soon as possible in a message sent to a DLP district chapter meeting Thursday.

A ranking ruling party official said a reform program would be launched simultaneously by the government, political circles and the business community to get rid of the past practice of collecting political funds from businesses in exchange for favors.

The remarks have been generally construed to suggest that such pending political reforms will include the purge of politicians involved in the No scandal regardless of their party affiliation.

Another DLP source said there would be large-scale reshuffles of the cabinet and his party's leadership next month when the National Assembly closes its on-going budget session. The ruling camp DLP will also start negotiating soon with the opposition about amending election and political fund laws with the intention of keeping the cost of elections as low as possible.

When the prosecution completes the on-going investigation of the No scandal, the source said, President Kim Yong-sam will address the nation to clarify his policy of steering the nation in the wake of the biggest political scandal in Korean history.

The chief executive, according to the source, may take a positive stance on making a special law concerning the hot political issue of the armed suppression of the 1980 Kwangju uprising when the Constitutional Court makes its ruling on the prosecution's decision not to pursue legal action against those responsible for the incident.

The source said that the reform measures that the ruling camp is currently studying would be to the disadvantage of some business firms in the short run, such as the abolition of favoritism in the loaning system. He also noted that the financial and tax systems will also be reformed in a manner that helps achieve the goal of the real-name financial transaction system.

Ruling, Opposition Parties React to No's Arrest

SK1611145895 Seoul KBS-1 Television Network in Korean 1226 GMT 16 Nov 95

[Report by Kim Chong-hun; passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] Regarding the arrest of former President No Tae-u, Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] Spokesman Son Hak-kyu stated that the arrest of a former president is shameful and unfortunate, but that the principle that all the people are equal before the law was abided by.

[Son] "The incident is an expression of the prosecution authorities' will for the fair and just practice of the law, and I hope it will be the turning point to remedy the relaxed discipline of our society."

Spokesman Son stressed that people have to learn historic lessons from the incident and make it a blessed occasion to correct all wrong customs in society for the accomplishment of reforms and to open a new political era.

Spokesman Pak Chi-won of the National Congress for New Politics said that No's arrest is natural but that is the most unfortunate and shameful incident of the state in our constitutional history, and added that the only way for No to make amends for his crime is for him to reveal everything to clear away suspicions surrounding the political funds for the last presidential election.

[Pak] "No should reveal the truth to make amends for his crime for the last time and should be aware that if he yields under any pressure or appeasement, this will bring about more unfortunate consequences in the future."

Spokesman Yi Ki-taek of the Democratic Party said No's arrest represents a new start rather than the end of the secret political scandal.

[Yi] "With the investigation of No Tae-u, who was placed under arrest, the truth of the slush funds given to presidential candidates of the ruling and opposition parties during the 1992 presidential election campaigns should be disclosed."

Spokesman Ku Chang-im of the United Liberal Democrats said it is time for our people and the entire political circles to seriously ponder on why such an incident took place.

[Ku] "The political circles should now humbly and deeply ponder on why this incident took place and how we can prevent such an incident to be repeated."

Parties 'Wondering' About Arrest's Aftermath

SK1711104595 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 17 Nov 95 p 2

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Political parties, which believed it was inevitable for the prosecution to arrest former President No Tae-u on bribery charges, are wondering what is coming next.

With 31 politicians alleged to have received money from No, the political parties are now worried that they may soon become the target of the prosecution's investigation.

In addition, the prosecution is vowing to probe further if it discovers that part of No's slush fund found its way into the coffers of presidential candidates during the 1992 election.

In its official comment, the ruling Democratic Liberal Party said yesterday that the nation should learn a lesson from No's scandal and exploit it as an occasion to correct political, economic and social wrongdoings of the past.

Rep. Son Hak-kyu, ruling party spokesman, said it is a shame and misfortune for a former president to be arrested for the wrongdoing the committed during his term in office.

But the two factions of the ruling party differed over what should be done to No if he is convicted.

Members of the faction who were once loyal to No believe President Kim Yong-sam should pardon him at an opportune time. But members of the other faction loyal to President Kim are lukewarm to the proposed presidential clemency.

Lawmakers from No's home town — Taegu and North Kyongsang Province — are worried that his arrest may lower their chances of being reelected.

Voters in the region may have second thoughts about the ruling party and their candidates after seeing No sent to jail, said some ruling party lawmakers from that region.

Rep. Kim Yun-hwan, chairman of the ruling party, said, "Is the slush fund the only issue of our nation? When are we going to deal with other state affairs?"

Rep. Kim is a lawmaker hailing from North Kyongsang Province and belonging to the faction once led by No.

Unlike Rep. Kim, who wishes to see an early settlement to No's scandal, Rep. Kang Sam-chae, secretary-general of the party, hinted at the expansion of the prosecution's probe to cover politicians of rival political parties. Kang is one of President Kim's proteges.

The main opposition National Congress for New Politics also says the prosecution had to arrest No. But it demands President Kim disclose how much money he received from No for his election campaign in 1992.

It says it will devise a new strategy against President Kim and his party after watching developments after No's arrest.

"There is no change in our determination to fight an all-out war against the ruling camp," said party spokesman Pak Chi-won. "We are only discussing how to wage our struggle effectively."

He warned the ruling camp not to exploit the outcome of the prosecution's investigation to its advantage.

Another opposition party, the Democratic Party, says it is unfortunate but unavoidable to arrest a former President.

The Democratic Party demands the prosecution shed light on collusive links between politicians and businessmen, as well as how No amassed the slush fund and how he used it.

The opposition United Liberal Democrats says it was an unfortunate incident to arrest former President No though it admits it was unavoidable.

Rep. Kim Chong-pil, president of the party, said, "It is an unhappy incident, no matter how it happened."

DP Urges Expansion of Investigation

SK1611100895 Seoul YONHAP in English
0838 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Nov. 16 (YONHAP) — The minor opposition Democratic Party (DP) on Thursday urged the prosecution to probe influential figures under the fifth and sixth republics, including ex-President Chon Tu-hwan and former legislators Yi Won- cho and Pak Chol-on.

It also called for investigation into family members and relatives of former President No Tae-u who have been implicated in the amassing of No's slush fund, including his wife Kim Ok-suk.

DP Spokesman Rep. Yi Kyu-taek announced that the opposition party adopted a seven-point resolution that called for a thorough probe at a meeting of its lawmakers held at the National Assembly Thursday morning.

In the resolution, the DP demanded that No's slush fund be investigated fully and returned to the national coffer, and that the residences of leading figures of the fifth and sixth republics, including No, be searched under warrants in an effort to uproot the corruption of the former regimes.

The resolution also demanded that President Kim Yong-sam and opposition candidates in the 1992 presidential election reveal the amounts of slush funds that they received from No for their campaigns three years ago.

DP Rep. Kang Chang-song, former head of the Defense Security Command, claimed at the meeting, "Chon Tu-hwan gave outgoing cabinet members several times larger gifts than what No gave," adding, "Chon even extorted money out of university presidents."

Reps. Pak Sok-mu and Chang Ki-uk asked, "Why doesn't the prosecution investigate Yi Won-cho, nicknamed the emperor of the financial world, and Pak Chol-on, the rising sun under the sixth republic?"

Another demand by the opposition party was the legislation of special laws to look into the Dec. 12, 1979, coup and the military suppression of the Kwangju uprising in May 1980.

Prosecution To Question Lawmaker Kum Chin-ho

SK1711092995 Seoul YONHAP in English 0735 GMT 17 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Nov. 17 (YONHAP) — For the third time, the prosecution plans to call in Rep. Kum Chin-ho of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) shortly for another round of questioning into his connection with the former President No Tae-u's slush fund scandal.

In its previous two interrogations of Kum and leading business leaders, the prosecution reportedly confirmed that the DLP member, who is a brother-in-law of No, had meddled in the personnel administration of state-run enterprises and banks while No was in office from 1988 until 1992.

Kum reportedly used his influence to solicit big bribes from applicants in exchange for their appointments to top-level management posts of government-run companies and organizations.

During the No administration, Kum, then serving as advisor of the Korea Foreign Trade Association, reportedly took bribes of 100 million to 500 million won from each newly-appointed president and other top-level executives of state-run companies and banks.

The prosecution has already found out that Kum was a go-between between No and business conglomerates for the former president's raising of his "governing fund," and if Kum is found to have cooperated in the creation of this secret fund, he will be charged with complicity in No's crime, an official said.

When the Korea Petroleum Corp. constructed a 270 billion-won oil storage facility in 1991, the ruling party politician reportedly used his influence on the state-run company so that Daelim Industries and seven other firms were given the contracts in return for kickbacks amounting to 2 percent of the contract amounts to the then President No.

Kum is suspected to have exercised his influence on the state-run Korea Development Bank into extending a long-term and low-interest loan of 130 billion won to Taihan Electric Wire Co. in 1991 in return for the company agreeing to build a factory in his electoral district of Yongju, North Kyongsang Province.

Source Says No Contributed 100 Billion Won

SK1711092895 Seoul YONHAP in English 0818 GMT 17 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Nov. 17 (YONHAP) — The funds that ex-President No Tae-u allegedly contributed to the ruling Democratic Liberal Party's (DLP) operating expenses from his slush fund while in office has been estimated at about 100 billion won (130 million U.S. dollars), sources close to the ruling camp said Friday.

Before leaving the DLP in October 1992, No served as its leader. The DLP had been called the Democratic Justice Party until its merger in 1990 with the then two opposition parties led by Kim Yong- sam and Kim Chong-pil, respectively.

The DLP looked into and counted roughly No's contributions, which came out of his so-called "governing fund," to the party during his concurrent service as its head for four years and eight months, according to the sources. This was in preparation for the former president revealing his contributions to political parties, including his donations to the DLP, during his second and third interrogations by the prosecution Wednesday and Thursday, respectively.

The sources said that the DLP had used most of No's contributions as its operating funds after the 1990 merger.

One source said that the total amount that No gave to the party for use as its operating expenses on a regular basis has been estimated at about 100 billion won.

But whether this amount includes his contribution to the party's 1992 presidential election expenses and whether he made a separate contribution to the party's campaign office has yet to be disclosed, he added.

This is the first time that any DLP source has revealed the amount of funds No gave to it during his presidency.

The 100 billion-won amount includes No's monthly contributions, which averaged 1 billion won a month, to the DLP's operating expenses and the envelopes of "gift money" that he handed to party officials and lawmakers on special occasions including New Year's Day and Chusok (Korean version of Thanksgiving Day), the source said.

Kim Chong-pil Denies Knowledge of Expenses

SK1611112095 Seoul YONHAP in English 0825 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Nov. 16 (YONHAP) — President Kim Chong-pil of the minor opposition United

Liberal Democrats (ULD) said he has no knowledge of how much money former President No Tae-u distributed to the ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) in the 1992 presidential election.

"He who used the money and he who gave the money must know about it, but I, as a man who stood on the sidelines, had no way of knowing about it." He quipped when asked about the ruling party's election expenses in 1992.

"As I was kept at a respectful distance, my knowledge about No's distribution to the DLP's campaign funds would be quite limited even if I did know about it," he told reporters.

When asked about news reports that the ULD has information about the expenses, he simply replied, "I don't know," adding, however, that his party has people who had worked in the DLP election campaign of 1992.

The ULD president indirectly asked the ruling camp to make public its election campaign expenses from three years ago, saying that the people now want to know how much it spent in the election.

He then made a puzzling remark that where there is money raised, there is money spent.

Ministry Announces Deregulation of Interest Rates

SK1611092395 Seoul YONHAP in English 0706 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Nov. 16 (YONHAP) — All deposit interest rates, except on demand deposits, will be deregulated starting Monday.

Under the interest rate liberalization and aggregate loan ceiling system improvement program announced by the Finance and Economy Ministry Thursday, bank rates on time deposits maturing in less than six months, installment deposits reaching maturation in less than one year and "free" deposits for more than three months will be deregulated.

The program also calls for deregulation of interest rates that non-bank financial institutions pay for short-term deposits maturing in three months or more. In addition, yields on debt securities of merchant banks and investment and finance companies redeemable within at least one month will be liberalized.

Demand interest rates are expected to rise by 2 or 3 percentage points after deregulation, money market sources said.

Such government disinvolvement measures will increase the share of interest rate-liberalized deposits in the total deposit market from 57.7 percent to 64.7 percent and the number of liberalized deposits, expressed as a percentage of the total number of deposits, from 79.8 percent to 83.2 percent.

Furthermore, the minimum maturity period of bank installment deposits will be reduced from the current one year to six months.

The floor face value of certificates of deposit, commercial paper, public bonds sold with repurchase agreements and other short- term debt securities will be lowered from the current 30 million won to 10 million won, while that of "covered notes" will be brought down from the current 10 million won to 5 million won.

Also, the minimum sales unit of public bonds will fall from the current 10 million won to 5 million won.

The Bank of Korea's aggregate loan ceiling system will be so improved that all small and medium-sized businesses, regardless of their trade category, will benefit from this system. At present, the manufacturing sector only benefits from this lending facility, where lending institutions may discount notes running for less than 90 days that firms receive in payment for their goods or services supplied until their total outstanding loans reach the ceiling set by the central bank.

To help small and medium-size businesses benefit more from this system, lending institutions, including banks, will be required to provide 80 percent of the loan ceiling to these businesses.

In supplementary measures designed to ease the export industry's expected financial hardship due to the deregulated interest rates, the ceiling on the money exporters receive prior to shipment of their goods will be raised from the current 5 percent of their previous year's total export achievement to 10 percent.

Correction to Foreign Minister on Membership

SK1311000795

The following correction pertains to an item headlined "Foreign Minister on Security Council Membership" published in the 9 November East Asia DAILY REPORT on page 35.

Column one, last paragraph, from end of first sentence, make read: ...Council. We share (?0.38) percent of the... (adding question mark within parentheses to denote queried figure.)

Correction to Jiang Zemin Speaks at Assembly

SK1511032195

The following correction pertains to an item headlined "Jiang Speaks at Assembly" published in the 14 November East Asia DAILY REPORT on pages 51-52.

Page 51, column two, last paragraph, end of first sentence, make read: ...between them. The friendly exchange between our... (adding omitted word "friendly.")

Page 52, column one, first full paragraph, end of first sentence, make read: ...important influence on your country. The book,...(changing "our" to "your".)

Burma

'Goodwill' Delegation Departs for Thailand

BK1511030395 Rangoon Radio Myanmar in Burmese 1330 GMT 14 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A Myanmar [Burmese] goodwill delegation led by Vice Admiral Maung Maung Khin, deputy prime minister, left Yangon [Rangoon] for Thailand by special aircraft at 0700 today at the invitation of the Thai deputy prime minister, General Chawalit Yongchaiyut.

The delegation was seen off at Yangon International Airport by Gen. Maung Aye, vice chairman of the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC], deputy commander in chief of the Defense Services, and army commander in chief; Lieutenant General Khin Nyunt, SLORC secretary-1; Lt. Gen. Tin U, SLORC secretary-2; Lt. Gen. Tin Tun, deputy prime minister, and ministers; Thai Ambassador Mr. Poksak Nin-ubon; and responsible personnel.

Vice Adm. Maung Maung Khin, SLORC member and deputy prime minister; accompanied by Lt. Gen. Kyaw Ba, minister of hotels and tourism; Brigadier General Abel, minister of national planning and economic development; U Tin Tun, deputy minister of energy; U Nyunt Swe, deputy minister of foreign affairs; Colonel Tin Hlaing, deputy minister of home affairs; U Aung San, deputy minister of construction; U Aung Thein, deputy minister of livestock breeding and fisheries, and responsible personnel arrived at Bangkok's Don Muang International Airport at 0930.

The Burmese goodwill delegation was welcomed at Don Muang International Airport by Gen. Phat Akhanibut, adviser to the Thai Defense Ministry; Mr. Monthon Kraiwatnuson, deputy minister of agriculture and cooperatives; Gen. Yutthasak Sasiprapha, director general of Policy and Planning Department of the Ministry of Defense; Myanmar Ambassador U Tin Winn; and Myanmar Defense Attache Col. Thein Swe.

SLORC's Than Shwe Receives Thai Minister

BK1411013495 Rangoon Radio Myanmar in Burmese 1330 GMT 13 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Senior General Than Shwe, chairman of the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC] of the Union of Myanmar [Burma] and commander in chief of the Defense Services, received the visiting Thai foreign minister, Mr. Kasemsamosan Kasemsi, and party at the Defense Ministry's Dagon House at 1000 today.

Also present were General Maung Aye, SLORC vice chairman, deputy commander in chief of the Defense Services, and army commander in chief; Lieutenant General Tin U, SLORC secretary-2; U Ohn Gyaw, minister of foreign affairs; Thura U Aung Htet, director general of Protocol Department; and Thai Ambassador Mr. Poksak Nin-ubon.

Soldier Reports Desertions From SLORC Forces

BK1511124795 Oslo Democratic Voice of Burma in Burmese 1430 GMT 14 Nov 95

[Dispatch by DVB Correspondent Maung Zaw from the Thai-Burma border]

[FBIS Translated Text] It has been learned that many soldiers have deserted from the SLORC's [State Law and Order Restoration Council] forward military columns. Private Win Htay from the 1st Company of the 336th Light Infantry Regiment [LIR], who fled to the KNPP [Karenni National Progressive Party], said that, due to these desertions, SLORC soldiers in the Karen State have been warned by their commanders not to join the KNPP. Pvt. Win Htay's regiment — No. 336 LIR — is based in Pekon Township.

Pvt. Win Htay, Serial No. 152816, who is 18-years-old, said that SLORC forces are attempting to capture the deserters who fled their regiments because of intimidation and mistreatment by their commanding officers.

Pvt. Win Htay entered the Defense Services in 1992 and deserted three years later on 1 November and joined the KNPP forces.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Commonwealth Communique on Nigeria, France Lauded

BK1511065895 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0810 GMT 14 Nov 95

[Station commentary: "The New Commonwealth"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, CHOGM, which ended yesterday in New Zealand, was momentous for a few outstanding reasons. The very important decisions made and agreed to have made the organization a very credible and effective one.

The joint communique released at the close of the meeting covered a vast range of global issues which were directed at the building and helping members and nonmembers who are in need of help. Among the nonmembers which were highlighted in the communique were Bosnia- Herzegovina and the Middle Eastern region. The Commonwealth leaders recognized the need for an end to the problems in these regions and called for aid where no one party will suffer unnecessarily.

Other highlights of the communique show that the Commonwealth has come of age. The issues tackled are real issues of worldwide importance ranging from human rights assurances and reform of the United Nations to the condemnation of nuclear weapon proliferation.

Like it or not, two major incidences recently have helped the Commonwealth become what it has in the four short days of the summit. France's colonial arrogance in carrying out its nuclear testing in the South Pacific and Nigeria's carrying out the execution of nine human rights activists have forced the Commonwealth to mature and show some credibility to the world. And Malaysia contributed a lot to this maturity. Malaysia's loud voice, carried by Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed, and admirably supported by the whole country, opposition and NGOs [Nongovernmental Organization] alike, was heard and understood. The message carried and implications conveyed were accepted by all at the meeting.

The declaration to condemn France for its nuclear testing sadly carried a lone voice of dissent. Britain, a senior partner and the party actually responsible for this grouping, stood out like a sore thumb in its refusal to condemn France. Maybe as one colonialist to another, can never say that. Camaraderie has to be upheld. Well, old habits die hard.

Nigeria provided a chance for the Commonwealth to test their mettle in tackling a serious issue. And the latter performed admirably, evident even in its cautiousness. The decision to suspend a brother must have been a painful one, but the latter shows that there are more important values that must be upheld. Maybe nuclear powers can emulate this feat in their dealings with each other.

The formation of a monitoring board to consider Nigeria's progress back toward the right track was commendable for in doing so, member countries have exposed their own internal policies to scrutiny. But in so doing, smaller countries like Malaysia are brave enough to say that each country has an inherent right to govern itself but no one country or body can be so powerful as to fully demand that their way is right and should be followed to the letter. Nigeria has not been ostracized — it is only being put back on to the right track.

The right track as envisioned by the leaders of the summit is all about helping each other to develop and highest on the list is to help upgrade and give opportunities for the people to develop. Human resources remain the most valuable asset for the world. It is to this end that Dr. Mahathir announced to the meeting the setting up of two sets of scholarships for Commonwealth citizens. More importantly, these scholarships have been given to students to find ways to help develop their own people. In short, these scholarships have been set up to help Commonwealth citizens help themselves.

This underlines the Malaysian policy of developing the natural assets, that is the citizens of all countries of the world. The days where big and strong nations can go into and plunder smaller nations without thoughts for the natives are gone. The time has come for all to be given a level playing field so all could work together to help make the world become a better place.

France might have thought that it can get away with doing whatever it wants, but the day will soon come when they were made to realize that they had been too ignorant of the awakening of the real world. Nigeria's rulers too show that military rulers and dictators can overcome any resistance, but they too will be well advised to heed the calls for democracy. As for the Commonwealth, it has shown what it can do. There is still a long way to go but if the spirit can be maintained, the whole world will soon wake up to the fact that a grouping of nations can effectively work for the good of the world without losing sight of common values.

Foreign Minister Comments on APEC Meeting

BK1511034795 Kuala Lumpur RTM Television Network 1 in Malay 1200 GMT 14 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The United Nations must adopt a fair stand on all its members. Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said this to reporters after he was interviewed by Radio Television Malaysia at the Angkasa Puri studio.

[Begin Abdullah recording] [in progress] ... all its members. The United Nations must not become a political tool of major powers. It should instead pay attention to the views expressed by small and developing countries. [end recording]

Asked to comment on the APEC [Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation] meeting in Osaka tomorrow, he said Malaysia reiterates its stand that all views must be considered first before any decision is made.

[Begin Abdullah recording] We hope that at the coming Osaka meeting, all views voiced by APEC members, both developing and developed countries, will receive equal attention because any resolution to be adopted in Osaka is an implementation of earlier resolutions adopted in Indonesia. [end recording]

Abdullah is scheduled to leave for Osaka this evening. Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed and Datuk Sri Rafidah Aziz, minister of international trade and industry, will also attend the Osaka meeting. The six-day meeting will end on 20 November.

Zimbabwean President Arrives, Receives Welcome

BK1611131895 Kuala Lumpur RTM Television Network 3 in Malay 0530 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Another African leader has arrived for a working visit to Malaysia following the arrival of Namibian President Dr. Sam Nujoma last night. Zimbabwean President Robert Gabriel Mugabe arrived this morning on a four-day visit. His visit is seen as an effort to improve bilateral cooperation in the South- South spirit:

[Begin correspondent's recording] He was welcomed by Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed upon his arrival at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport in Subang at 1100 this morning. Also on hand to welcome the Zimbabwean president were Acting Foreign Minister Datuk Abang Abu Bakar Mustafa and Minister in Attendance Datuk Chua Jui Meng. The Zimbabwean delegation includes Foreign Minister S. Mudenge and corporate leaders. The Zimbabwean president is expected to hold discussions with Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir later today. A memorandum of understanding is expected to be signed after a delegation-level meeting.

Meanwhile, the Zimbabwean president was accorded an official welcome at Parliament Square. He was welcomed by Paramount Ruler Tuanku Ja'afar and the prime minister. Mugabe and his delegation arrived at Parliament Square at 1145 this morning. A twenty-one gun salute was fired as the national anthems of the two countries were played by the Royal Malaysian Navy band. Following this, the Zimbabwean president inspected an honor guard mounted by four officers and 103 personnel of the Royal Malay Regiment led by Major Muhammed Rom Ismail. The Zimbabwean president was then introduced to cabinet members and foreign dignitaries. [end recording]

Singapore

Zimbabwe's Mugabe Invites Business Investment

MB1511135295 Harare Zimbabwe National Broadcasting Corporation Network in English 1130 GMT 15 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Robert Mugabe has invited the business community in Singapore to invest in Zimbabwe, saying the country has opened up its economy to make it attractive to foreign investment. President Mugabe, who is on a two-day state visit to Singapore at the invitation of Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong, was speaking at a trade and investment forum on Zimbabwe, organized by the Singapore Trade Development Board and the Singapore Manufacturers' Association. Comrade Mugabe said trade and investment protection agreements could be signed between the two countries to give security of property and access to foreign investors.

He told the forum that Zimbabwe has an economy with great potential, abundant raw materials, and a stable environment. He invited investors to invest in such areas as food processing, prospecting and mining ventures, tourism development, and textiles. Comrade Mugabe said that trade liberalization moves which started in the early 1990's has already made the country an attractive investment base in southern Africa, with the removal of a number of trade barriers, and reforms which led to the relaxation of exchange controls and other trade restrictions. He said the government is committed to reducing corporate tax from the current level of 37.5 [percent], adding that several tax (?provisions) are available for investors.

Bilateral trade between Zimbabwe and Singapore currently stands at $135 million. Industry and commerce minister, Comrade Herbert Murerwa,?vho also addressed the forum, outlined a number of measures which seeks to encourage direct foreign investment in Zimbabwe. Comrade Murerwa, who is also the acting minister of finance, said Zimbabwe has legislated for the establishment of export processing zones in which investors enjoy a number of exemptions, including a concessionary corporate tax [?provision]. He said Zimbabwe's central location in southern Africa will give Singapore excellent opportunities to tap the whole southern African market.

Targets Economic Growth

MB1611053995 Johannesburg SAPA in English 2047 GMT 15 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Singapore Nov 15 SAPA — Zimbabwe's second phase of its economic structural adjustment programme (ESAP) is aimed at increasing economic growth, attracting more investment and improving employment opportunities, President Robert Mugabe said on Wednesday.

The ZIANA [ZIMBABWE INTER-AFRICAN NEWS AGENCY] news agency reported that Mugabe, on a two-day state visit to Singapore at the invitation of Prime ?inister Goh Chok Tong, said Zimbabwe envisaged a modern, vibrant and highly competitive economy. He was speaking at a dinner hosted for him by the Singaporean prime minister.

"We are visiting you at a time when Zimbabwe is about to launch its second phase of the economic structural adjustment programme following the conclusion of the first. We intend to move along the road you have travelle? here in Singapore, a road which led to vibrant highly diversified and competitive economy," he said.

The first phase of ESAP programme saw thousands of people retrenched and food prices rocket as government deregulated the economy.

Mugabe, however, outlined some of the achievements of the programme such as the relaxation of the economy, creation of foreign investment opportunities and incentives.

He urged Singaporean business people to take advantage of the peace prevailing in southern Africa to explore the African market and invest in Zimbabwe.

Defense Minister Meets Malaysian Counterpart

BK1511025895 Singapore Radio Corporation of Singapore in English 1000 GMT 14 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Malaysian Defense Minister Syed Hamid Albar has held talks with the deputy prime minister and defense minister, Dr. Tony Tan. They discussed ways to improve defense ties and Malaysia's move toward a total defense concept similar to Singapore's national service.

Mr. Syed Hamid also hoped to see more regional cooperation in developing defense-related industries. This is Mr. Syed Hamid's first visit to Singapore after assuming the defense portfolio in April.

In January this year, both Malaysia and Singapore set up a defense forum aimed at setting policy guidelines on defense cooperation and exploring areas for defense interaction.

Defense Ties Potential Viewed

BK1411112395 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0800 GMT 14 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] There is tremendous potential for effective collaboration and cooperation in the defense industry in the region. Defense Minister Datuk Syed Hamid Albar said the future of the industry could not be looked at from a domestic point of view.

Datuk Syed Hamid was in Singapore for a one-day visit, during which he called on Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong and met his Singapore counterpart Dr. Tony Tan, who is also a deputy prime minister. He also said that to take advantage of the economy's upscale, there must be more collaboration between countries in the region in the defense industry. Such cooperation could be forged between Malaysia and Singapore as well as other countries in the region. Datuk Syed Hamid said his visit was to further enhance the good relationship and cooperation on defense ties between Malaysia and Singapore.

Cambodia

Ranariddh Urges Peaceful Resolution of Problems

BK1711112195 Phnom Penh REAKSMEI KAMPUCHEA in Cambodian 17 Nov 95 p 2

[Report by Dararit]

[FBIS Translated Text] Prince Krompreah Norodom Ranariddh, first prime minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, has said the Cambodian people are free to create 100 more political parties if they desire, since our country upholds liberal democracy. They are asked, however, not to violate the rule of law.

The prince said this while visiting the people in Aoral District, Kompong Speu Province, early this week.

He added: After creating the parties, the people are urged to view fairly the efforts exerted by the Royal Government [RG], the National Assembly, and the authorities in the provinces, districts, communes, and villages throughout the country as well. Some political parties have alleged that the incumbent government has done nothing while the country continues to deteriorate. The RG has recorded a great many achievements everywhere in less than two years. These parties have said, however, that the RG should not remain in power and must be completely removed.

Prince Krompreah Norodom Ranariddh said regretfully: They continue to talk about killing and the use of violence. Over 2 million people have already died, but they still want to kill more. We Cambodians should stop talking about killing, violence, or the use of arms. We should resolve problems through peaceful means, because we have already been fighting for 23 years. It has been long enough.

Former Premier Denies Plans To Join Party

BK1711111395 Phnom Penh REAKSMEI KAMPUCHEA in Cambodian 17 Nov 95 pp 1, 2

[Report by Chan Reaksmei]

[FBIS Translated Text] Pen Sovan, a former prime minister and political player in the 1970's and 1980's, has rejected a report that he intends to join the Khmer

Nation Party created by Sam Rangsi. He also said he has no plans to establish his own political party.

The statement by Pen Sovan, who was prime minister and defense minister following the fall of the Khmer Rouge in 1979 and who was dismissed and detained in Hanoi until 1991, was quoted by CAMBODIA DAILY in its 15 November issue.

Pen Sovan told CAMBODIA DAILY that the ideas being implemented by the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] leaders nowadays are the ones he formulated when he led the country in 1981. Therefore, "I have no intention of quitting CPP at all." He said, however, that the corrupt practices pursued by CPP senior leaders have created the "anarchy" problem.

Pen Sovan, who was asked to rejoin the CPP in April 1995, added: "I am one of the CPP's founders. I want to restore the party with a view to improving the people's livelihood. If I am a party member, I will be able to help the party. I have no intention at all of establishing a new party."

Some observers had anticipated that Pen Sovan would join the Sam Rangsi-led Khmer Nation Party.

Pen Sovan said in 1993, at the time when the Royal Government was being formed, that he could get involved in politics if all leaders were willing to put an end to propaganda campaigns that were disturbing the political environment.

Pen Sovan said the slogan of "making people wealthy before the state" is not acceptable because the rich will become richer while the poor become poorer. The people have also been harassed by the police and the Army.

Commenting on the 1998 elections, Pen Sovan said the polls appear to be a farce that will confuse people who "do not know about the leaders' intentions or objectives to be pursued."

Khmer Rouge Claim Route Cut Off

BK1711052195 (Clandestine) Radio of the Provisional Government of National Union and National Salvation of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] On 11 November, the National Army, in cooperation with our people, blew another big hole in Route 4, east of Treng Trayoeng in Phnum Sruoch District of Kompong Speu Province. The hole was 1 meter deep and 2 meters wide.

After blowing the hole, we planted 1,000 poisonous stakes and some mines on both sides of the route as well.

Between 1 August and 11 November, the Phnom Penh-Kompong Som Route 4 was badly cut off with 40 holes. The two-headed puppets can no longer use the route and the United States dares not go and repair it.

The National Army and the people are intensifying activities to cut off Route 4 with more holes.

Indonesia

French Embassy's Timorese To Leave for Portugal

OW1711095095 Tokyo KYODO in English 0933 GMT 17 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jakarta, Nov. 17 KYODO — Five East Timorese who entered the French embassy compound Thursday will leave Jakarta for Portugal on Friday night, an official at the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said.

"Again, based on the agreement between French and Indonesian authorities, the ICRC will facilitate the youths to go to Portugal," Henry Fournier, head of the ICRC delegation in Indonesia, told KYODO NEWS SERVICE by telephone.

Ghaffar Fadyl, a spokesman at the Indonesian Foreign Ministry, earlier told KYODO NEWS SERVICE that at this time, the East Timorese youths are not seeking political asylum, but "they just want to go to Portugal."

The young men entered the embassy compound Thursday morning by climbing over the embassy's fence. On Tuesday, 21 East Timorese entered the Japanese embassy seeking asylum and were allowed to leave for Portugal on Wednesday.

Indonesia invaded East Timor in 1975 and annexed it the following year, calling it the country's 27th province. The United Nations does not recognize the annexation.

In Osaka, Japan, Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas on Friday dismissed as "a farce" the action of the East Timorese who climbed over the fence of the French Embassy in Jakarta to seek asylum.

Alatas is in Osaka for a meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum. Last year, another group of East Timorese caught the attention of the media by climbing over the fence of the U.S. Embassy during the APEC summit in Bogor, Indonesia.

"The pattern has become quite clear and in fact rather boring," Alatas told reporters.

Suharto Departs for APEC Summit in Osaka

OW1711055395 Tokyo KYODO in English
0509 GMT 17 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jakarta, Nov. 17 KYODO — Indonesian President Suharto left Jakarta on Friday morning for Osaka, Japan, to attend the informal summit Sunday of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum.

Suharto, accompanied by his wife Tien and the Indonesian delegation, left Jakarta's Halim Perdanakusumah Airforce Base on a special flight.

During his four-day stay in Osaka, Suharto is scheduled to hold bilateral talks with some APEC heads of state, including New Zealand Prime Minister Jim Bolger, Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating, Singaporean Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong, Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de Leon and Sultan Haji Hasanal Bolkiah of Brunei.

The talks are likely to take place Saturday, when Suharto is also expected to meet the head of the Taiwanese delegation.

Suharto will pay a courtesy call on Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama at the residence of Osaka's mayor on the same day.

On Saturday night, the president will attend a dinner hosted by Murayama and an unofficial meeting of APEC leaders. Along with the other leaders of APEC's 18 members, Suharto will attend the forum's informal summit on Sunday.

The president will leave for Jakarta from Kansai International Airport near Osaka on Monday morning.

He will be accompanied during his visit by Coordinating Minister Hartarto, Foreign Minister Ali Alatas, State Secretary Murdiono, his economic advisor Widjoyo Nitisastro, Ambassador for Non-Aligned Movement Affairs Nana Sutresna, head of the APEC executive body and Suharto's special assistant for APEC affairs Bintoro Tjokroamidjojo and Indonesian Ambassador to Japan Wisber Loeis.

Philippines

PRC Satement Insists 'No Tension' in Spratlys

BK1711110095 Hong Kong AFP in English
1035 GMT 17 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MANILA, Nov 17 (AFP) — There is no conflict over the disputed Spratly islands in the South China Sea, China said Friday, as it criticized statements in the Philippines that played up friction in the area.

"The Chinese side has all along believed that there is no tension at all in the South China Sea," the Chinese foreign ministry said in a statement from Beijing sent to Manila.

"Any words or deeds which play up the intense situation and surmise the so-called conflict in this area are by no means conducive to the maintenance of the sound atmosphere of peace and stability in the region," it added.

The statements came following a recently concluded international forum in Manila of experts from various think tanks who said China continued to worry its neighbors despite Beijing's reassurances that it had no expansionist intentions.

At the forum, the non-government experts from the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) agreed that any instability in the South China Sea could come from "outside" ASEAN, referring to China.

The experts cited China's military modernization and its building of a structure on a reef in the Spratly islands that is claimed by the Philippines.

The Spratlys, believed to be rich in oil and minerals, are being claimed wholly or partly by Brunei, China, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam, and are potential flashpoints.

But China reiterated its commitment to peace in the area, saying its "persistent stand ...is to strive for a peaceful settlement with parties concerned through bilateral negotiations."

China and the Philippines held bilateral negotiations in August, while Vietnam and the Philippines earlier this month agreed to try to solve the conflicting claims peacefully.

President Ramos Leaves for APEC Summit

BK1611044195 Quezon City Radio Filipinas
in English 0230 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Ramos has left for Osaka, Japan this morning to attend the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation [APEC] Summit Meeting in that place. President Ramos' 19th foreign travel will include a coaching session between him and the prime ministers of Japan and Australia. President Ramos said Japan's Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama will coach him on the hosting of the assembly, expected to put in concrete terms declaration of free and open trade and investments hammered out in Bogor, Indonesia.

The Philippines takes its turn as host next year. President Ramos told his weekly news conference in Malacanang yesterday that the government surely will appreciate suggestions from Prime Minister Murayama on how to do it. President Ramos will later pass on similar tips to Prime Minister Paul Keating of Australia where APEC leaders will meet in 1997. He and Keating will see each other in Osaka and the president is expected to follow-up matters taken up during his state visit to Australia in August.

President Ramos will also meet with Chinese President Jiang Zemin to discuss the Spratlys, over which China and the Philippines along with Vietnam, Malaysia and Taiwan have state-territorial claims.

Rebels Put Northern Mindanao Under 'Red Alert'

BK1311091395 Quezon City MALAYA in English 9 Nov 95 pp 1, 6

[Report by Al Jacinto]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Zamboanga City — The PNP [Philippine National Police] in Northern Mindanao placed the region under red alert Wednesday following reports that some 2,000 to 3,000 armed rebels were sighted in Bukidnon Province.

The rebels, who could be from the Moro National Liberation Front or the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, were feared to be preparing to attack Cagayan de Oro City where the PNP-Recom [Regional Command] 10 Headquarters is based.

Brig. Gen. Edmundo Larroza, PNP Recom 10 director, said the report is still being verified.

Police said the sighting was reported by Mayor Joseph Boreta of Talacag Town in Bukidnon. The group was reportedly massing in Lanao del Sur and moving toward Cagayan de Oro.

Bukidnon residents reportedly said the armed group passed Cabilingan Town, about 30 kilometers from the Misamis Oriental boundary.

The PNP and the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] have set up check points. Police mobile forces and V150 armored personnel carriers were roving the boundary and securing the outskirts.

Thailand

U.S. Embassy's 'Roles' in Thai Politics Viewed

BK0911145195 Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai 5 Nov 95 p 3

[News Analysis by Chatchai Ruyaphon]

[FBIS Translated Text] One of the issues raised during the informal meetings between representatives of Thailand and the United States during the celebration of the 50th founding anniversary of the United Nations in New York was the U.S. drug accusations against Thai citizens. The U.S. side failed to provide any clarification or detail specific actions it plans to take in this connection. The United States, however, did not state during the UNGA session that Thailand was on the list of narcotic trafficking nations.

Regardless of what the real story is, the future of the Thai politicians whose visa applications were rejected by the United States remains to be seen. Today, I want to introduce to my readers an organization that represents the U.S. Government in Thailand and plays an important role as liaison between the governments of the two countries during the U.S. drug charges' controversy. This said organization is the U.S. Embassy.

Among the many embassies from different countries in Thailand, that of the U.S. Embassy is mentioned most by the Thai people.

One of the reasons is that it represents a large country with a strong influence in the international arena. In particular, following the rejection of visa applications from Thai politicians, many people believe that the United States used its embassy as a tool to interfere in Thailand's internal politics.

Generally speaking, the U.S. Embassy handles diplomatic tasks between the two countries. Embassy officials are assigned to keep the Department of State informed of developments in Thailand.

In other words, U.S. diplomats at the embassy serve as representatives of the U.S. Government who maintain relations with, and work with, state agencies, private organizations, and the Thai people.

According to international law and practice, the U.S. Embassy, like embassies of other countries, cannot interfere in the internal politics of the host country. Embassy officials are also required to carry out their diplomatic missions within the framework of the international law.

In 1979 Frank C. Darling, a professor at DePauw University, in the United States researched the functions of the U.S. Embassy in Thailand and found that the embassy has four special duties to perform. They are as follows:

The first duty is to gather information on Thailand's internal politics, economy, social developments, and military. The U.S. Embassy sends the information that it gathers back to the Department of State in Washington D.C.

The second duty is to give U.S. endorsement to political legitimacy for leaders and major bodies in Thai politics as well as various institutions in Thailand.

The third duty is to support political reform aimed at developing a democratic political system. In this connection, the U.S. Embassy is required to perform a special task of strengthening Thailand's security and stability whether the country is under the rule of a dictatorial or democratic government. The U.S. Embassy supports the peaceful process of political reform.

Under dictatorial regimes, the U.S. Embassy normally plays a major role in protecting human rights.

The U.S. Embassy also promotes the dissemination of legal knowledge and education. Its Thai staff members have been sent to observe legislative work in the United States.

The fourth duty is to serve as the place where adversaries of the Thai Government can register their complaints and unhappiness. In the past, the U.S. Embassy was the target of attacks by various political groups. It saw many antigovernment protests, especially by students who were suspicious of its interference in Thailand's internal affairs.

In conclusion, we can say that the U.S. Embassy has been unavoidably forced by circumstances and conditions to perform special measures in dealing with Thai political institutions and organizations.

In carrying out these special missions, U.S. Embassy officials become automatically involved in Thailand's internal political activities. It is undeniable that the roles of the U.S. Embassy have both direct and indirect impacts on Thailand's political institutions and organizations.

Deputy Prime Minister: Thanat's Speech 'His Own'

BK0911135295 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1200 GMT 9 Nov 95 -

[FBIS Translated Text] In his speech at the UN General Assembly about the United States and the problems of narcotics trafficking, Special Colonel Thanat Khoman, adviser to the chief of the Thai delegation to the United Nations, charged that the United States is imposing a burden on other countries to resolve drug problems. Mr. Amnuai Wirawan, deputy prime minister and leader of the Nam Thai Party, has said that the speech merely represented Col. Thanat Khoman's personal opinion. The deputy prime minister believes that the Foreign Ministries of the two countries may have already reached an understanding on this issue.

[Begin Amnuai recording] Mr. Thanat was merely expressing his own opinion at the UN General Assembly. Those were his own feelings on the issue. I believe that the U.S. State Department and the Thai Foreign Ministry are trying to reach a mutual understanding on this issue. Neither side wants to see the relations between these two countries damaged or affected. [end Amnuai recording]

Thanat Accuses DEA Agents of 'Killing' Suspect

BK1711013395 Bangkok THE NATION in English 17 Nov 95 p A3

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Thanat Khoman, chairman of the Commission of Inquiry, dropped yet another bombshell on the United States yesterday when he accused a U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) agents of killing a suspect and being allowed to return to the U.S. without a trial.

Thanat said he would release all details of the killing when the Commission of Inquiry members meet on Nov 24.

"U.S. DEA officials shot and killed a suspect. The officials were then allowed to return to the U.S. without facing trial for the killing. Some Americans will come to Thailand and tell the whole story," Thanat said.

He did not disclose the nationality of the victim, or give further details on when and how the shooting took place.

A spokesperson of the Bangkok-based U.S. Embassy yesterday said, "No comment."

Former foreign minister Thanat was appointed by Prime Minister Banhan Sinlapa-acha to head the commission to look into U.S. drug allegations against senior Chat Thai politicians Watthana Atsawahem and Narong Wongwan. He has repeatedly accused the U.S. of making up the allegations without solid evidence, and recently-lambasted the U.S. government in a speech before the UN Committee on Humanitarian, Social and Cultural Affairs.

Thanat yesterday said that during the UN meeting in Washington some senior American officials contacted him and called the U.S. allegations inappropriate and inaccurate.

"Moreover, a group of former Central Intelligence Agency agents informed me that they have conducted research on the allegations and found they are not true."

The research was conducted with cooperation from the DEA," Thanat claimed.

Thanat has been growing more belligerent toward Washington, and also the Banhan government itself. A few days ago, he reacted furiously to an observation that the Thai government was distancing itself from his controversial UN speech.

"The people who said I was there personally (without government connections) were cowards scared by the United States," he said.

With suspicions growing that Thanat might abandon his job after he has "softened up" Washington, government leaders yesterday tried to calm him down.

"There has been some misunderstanding." Banhan said. "At first I didn't know his status at the UN but after checking with the Foreign Ministry I have realized he was there as the Ministry's special adviser.

Government spokesman Somsak Pritsananthakun who had told reporters that Thanat was voicing personal opinions at the UN also apologized.

"I'm like his grandchild. If I have said anything out of misunderstanding that hurt his feelings, I'm very sorry," he said.

Attorney General Khanit Na Nakhon, a commission member, acknowledged that speculation was rife that Thanat might quit the panel.

"If that happens, the commission may be automatically disbanded," he said.

Thanat Letter on Reaction to UN Speech Noted

BK1711015995 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 17 Nov 95 p 4

[From the "POST BAG" — "Saying No to US Neo-Colonialism"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sir: Yes, someone deserves our pity — perhaps the one hidden behind the mask using the pseudonym "Senior Diplomat" whom a former CIA visiting Bangkok qualified as one of "our students, and very subservient too."

In the best CIA tradition, he took home the document accusing Thai nationals of involvement in drug trafficking presented by a former western diplomat.

He tried hard, unsuccessfully though, to turn the Foreign Department into a U.S. Colonial Office.

The so-called "senior diplomat" cannot be a real diplomat, least of all a senior one, because he would know that a delegate speaking at the UN has the right and duty to present not only his government's policy but also the views and aspirations of his people.

As to his appreciation of the style of my statement, he and I may meet in a public encounter, like say on TV. Anywhere, any time.

The same thing goes for the Bangkok Post "senior editor" or another "senior diplomat".

This is the second time I have thrown the challenge at the Bangkok Post. So far, no answer.

[Signed] Thanat Khoman

Daily: U.S. Becoming More 'Difficult Partner'

BK1711014895 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 17 Nov 95 p 4

[Editorial: "The US Is Becoming a Difficult Partner"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ministers and officials attending the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) meetings in Osaka yesterday played down the possibility of any damage arising from U.S. President Bill Clinton's decision not to attend.

Ryutaro Hashimoto, Japanese International Trade and Industry Minister, was quoted as saying that the cancellation might harm U.S.-Japanese bilateral relations. He called for substantive discussions with the Americans to minimise the damage, but added that the cancellation would have little effect on APEC. A number of other delegates also sounded unperturbed. They expressed understanding for Mr Clinton's reasons.

Nevertheless, the cancellation is bound to raise questions about U.S. intentions. Those questions broadly cover two areas.

Firstly, is the United States so preoccupied with its domestic objectives that it is unable to appreciate the concerns and sensitivities of other countries, particularly the Asian members of APEC? Critics of the United States such as Malaysia's Dato Seri Rafidah Aziz argue that the U.S. interest in APEC is only about opening up markets for American goods.

And secondly, is the confusion in domestic U.S. politics making the United States less effective in foreign affairs? President Clinton's image as a confused and directionless performer in international relations has improved a bit this year. But foreign policy remains handicapped, this time because of the in-built tendency for political confrontation that is the child of the U.S. constitution's separation of powers poses another threat to U.S. effectiveness.

The Americans' official line is that the Asia-Pacific is vital to U.S. interests and that bodies such as APEC and the ASEAN Regional Forum, the informal security dialogue that ASEAN hosts, are priorities for the United States.

There is little doubt that the region is a U.S. priority. The question is whether the United States is capable of handling its priorities in a way that will help it meet its objectives and avoid alienating the countries it wants to call its friends.

The Americans do call for partnership and community. But U.S. negotiators do also argue frequently that they have to heed the demands of Congress. They did that in Osaka this week when negotiating some of the most difficult topics of the APEC meeting — non-discrimination, which would clash with U.S. law covering trade with China, and the Americans' own demand for "balance" between APEC members' liberalisation measures.

Now the conflict between Congress and the administration that few outsiders can understand has prevented the president from attending a summit he once considered a high priority. Imagine the impact if an American president sent his deputy to a summit of the G-7, the group of seven leading industrial nations.

Nevertheless, this week's APEC meetings will probably continue unaffected even in the absence of Mr Clinton. Yesterday differences were settled concerning the Action Agenda for APEC's work over the coming year. There is little left for the leaders to thrash out at their informal summit in the grounds of Osaka Castle on Sunday.

Prime Minister Banhan Sinlapa-acha will be disappointed not to have met the U.S. president, but the original schedule only provided for 15 minutes, and even that would have been scrapped once the row with Congress broke out and Mr Clinton decided to postpone his arrival in Osaka until Sunday morning.

But the longer term message is that the United States is becoming a more difficult country to deal with. That could be damaging for all.

Official on Malaysian Loss of GSP Rights Issue

BK1011130795 Bangkok DAILY NEWS in Thai 10 Nov 95 p 9

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Kroekkrai Chiraphaet, director general of the Business Economics Department, has disclosed that the United States is likely to withdraw GSP [Generalized System of Preferences] tariff privileges for products from Malaysia beginning 1 January 1996. As a result, Thailand will have an opportunity to send quite a few products to replace those from Malaysia in the U.S. market. Compared to other ASEAN member countries, Thailand is regarded as a potential producer of electrical appliances, computers and computer parts, wooden furniture, and toys. He recommended that Thai exporters expedite the introduction of new Thai products into the U.S. market. Meanwhile, producers should improve the quality of their products and diversify forms to suit the tastes of U.S. consumers. Efforts should be made to export more products that are entitled to GSP privileges.

Kroekkrai said: "If Thailand can export products to fill the vacuum left by Malaysia as a result of the GSP withdrawal, we will become the country that uses the GSP privileges the most. In the initial stage, however, Thailand must not try to replace Malaysia in all products, because it will cause the total value of our exports under the GSP privilege to rise and the United States might use this as an excuse to withdraw our GSP quota, as it is doing with Malaysia."

Korekkrai said that Malaysia is Thailand's major competitor in the U.S. market. During the first half of this year, Malaysia ranked ninth in exports to the United States, with a market share of 2.1 percent and an expansion rate of 26 percent, while Thailand ranked 10th with a market share of 1.4 percent and an expansion rate of only 16 percent. Among the 145 developing countries benefiting from GSP privileges, Malaysia is the country that uses the privileges the most, and its exports to the United States continue to rise. In the past year, for example, Malaysia exported goods worth $5.003 billion to the United States under the GSP privileges, representing 27 percent of all GSP privileges. Thailand came in second with only $2.487 billion worth of products and 14 percent of the GSP privileges.

Kroekkrai added: "Malaysia has been exporting 10 types of goods, mostly electrical appliances and electronic products, under the GSP privileges to the United States. Competition in the U.S. market is quite high for such products as magnetic recording tapes, computers, computer hard disks, radio receivers, phonographs, and telephones. The United States is currently granting GSP tax privileges for 4,500 types of agricultural and industrial products. The list of products entitled to the tax privileges is updated regularly."

Malaysia Jails 3 Fishermen in Trawler Incident

BK0911150995 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1200 GMT 9 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In connection with the firing on and impounding of a Thai fishing trawler by the Malaysian Navy on 7 November in which two Thai fishermen were killed, the Information Office of the Thai Public Relations Department in Kuala Lumpur sent a dispatch to Bangkok reporting that Mr. Suraphong Posayanon, Thai ambassador to Malaysia, informed it that the remaining five Thai fishermen arrested in the incident were natives of Pak Phanang District [in Surat Thani Province]. They had been detained by the Malaysian police and sent to court. The ambassador said that Malaysian authorities allowed him to visit the arrested fishermen so that he could provide whatever assistance was needed.

The latest report from Kuala Lumpur said that all five Thai fishermen have confessed their illegal acts to the court. As a result two of them were subsequently released because they were under 18; however the court ordered that the other three be fined 400,000 baht each, or detained for four months. As for the dead fishermen, the Thai Embassy in Kuala Lumpur has been trying to contact their relatives to claim their remains for burials in accordance with their religious beliefs.

It was reported that frequently similar incidents have occurred in the past, when Thai fishing trawlers were seized for encroaching on Malaysian waters for poaching. Firmly adhering to the principle that it has full sovereignty over its economic territorial waters, Malaysia seizes any Thai trawlers found encroaching on its waters. A long-term solution to this problem is to encourage both countries to co-invest in the fishing industry so Thai trawlers will be able to legally fish in Malaysian waters. However the Malaysian Government does not seem to be ready to strike such a deal. Cooperation in this venture, nonetheless, has been carried out to a certain extent by the private sectors from the two countries.

In the meantime, Mr. Suwat Lipataphanlop, chairman of the House Foreign Relations Committee, told the press in Parliament today that the committee would invite the concerned authorities to a hearing next week to find out the truth about the killing of the two Thai fishermen, especially those from the Fishery Department, the Navy, and the Foreign Ministry.

Malaysian Navy Charged With Excessive Force

BK1011050095 Bangkok THE NATION in English 10 Nov 95 pp A1, A5

[Unattributed Report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A Thai trawler attacked by a Malaysian navy boat on Monday was riddled with bullets contrary to the Malaysian claim that only two "warning shots" were fired a senior Foreign Ministry official said yesterday. Deputy Permanent Foreign Secretary Sarasin Wiraphon said the attack, which left the captain of the Alabanja 4 and a 14-year-old dead, constituted an "unreasonable use of force".

"The Thai vessel has been found to be riddled with bullet holes," Sarasin said. "There were not only two shots fired as earlier claimed by Malaysia.

"It is true that the vessel was in Malaysian territorial waters and tried to escape arrest. However, Malaysia should have closely examined the vessel's activity before firing at it," Sarasin said.

According to Malaysian authorities, its navy fired "two warning shots" at the trawler. One of them hit the boat and killed the captain and a 14-year-old boy. Malaysia has detained five other crew and seized the trawler.

Malaysian charge d'affaires Mohamad Roze Abdul Rahman yesterday met Deputy Director General for East Asian Affairs Asiphon Chapchitchaidon, who said afterwards he had expressed his deep concern about the attack.

"Malaysia is being asked to pay compensation to the families of the two fishermen, and to release the detained vessel," Asiphon said.

Bangkok also asked Kuala Lumpur to avoid any further use of such force in future.

The Malaysian charge d'affaires said after the meeting that he regretted the "unfortunate incident".

Asked to confirm the earlier report that the Malaysian vessel fired only two warning shots, the envoy said "some warning shots" were fired.

He declined to respond to Sarasin's comment that the attack was an unreasonable use of force.

The incident took place within Malaysia's 200 nautical miles of Exclusive Economic Zone, he said. All countries would react in this way. Certain rules had to be enforced.

The Malaysian envoy said he would immediately forward the Thai request to the Malaysian Government.

The wife of the Alabanja 4's dead captain complained to Prime Minister Banhan Sinlapa-acha while he was visiting Nakhon Si Thammarat yesterday.

Kanchani Phathanathawi asked Banhan to find the person responsible and to help the five other crewmen who were detained by the Malaysians.

Banhan instructed authorities to look into the matter.

Deputy Agriculture Minister Monthon Kraiwatnuson yesterday accused the Malaysian navy of using "excessive force" against the Thai trawler.

He said the Foreign Ministry should demand that Kuala Lumpur pay compensation to the victims' families, and if they refused then a formal diplomatic protest should be lodged.

Monthon said Thai and Malaysian fishermen had frequently intruded into each other's territorial waters in the past, but Thailand had never reacted with such extremity. Malaysian poachers had been taken into custody, not killed.

Burmese Deputy Prime Minister Maung Maung Khin is scheduled to make an official visit to Thailand between Nov 14-18. His agenda includes talks with Deputy Prime Minister Chawalit Yongchaiyut on the reopening of Burmese territorial waters to Thai fishermen.

Two Thai trawlers poaching in Burmese waters were robbed and six crewmen killed last week, the Fisheries Department announced yesterday.

The Navichai, out of Samut Songkhram, was held up last Friday and the captain and two crew killed before it was towed away. The Thai trawler later capsized, the department said in a statement.

The Paknamranong 5, from Ranong, was attacked the following day, and again the captain and two crewmen were killed. One crewman jumped overboard and was rescued by a passing vessel.

The statement said the Foreign Ministry would be asked to urgently investigate.

Fisheries Deputy Director General Kitcha Chaiyen said the two Thai boats were wrong to fish illegally in Burmese waters, but the incident could affect bilateral negotiations on the reopening of common waters.

He said the existing law covering poaching in neighbouring countries provided for only weak penalties.

Editorial on Malaysia's Shooting of Fishermen

BK1111142695 Bangkok THAI RAT in Thai
11 Nov 95 p 3

[Editorial: "Overreaction by Malaysia"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Thai people have a premonition that neighboring countries are trying to close off the Gulf of Thailand by colluding to limit Thai sovereignty on the seas to the bottom end of the Gulf and by declaring their sovereignty and economic zones in the remainder of the sea. The recent killing of two Thai fishermen by a Malaysian Navy ship serves to strengthen that hunch.

Frankly, the Malaysian Navy ship clearly overreacted in its merciless shooting of the Thai fishing boat on 7 November. Although the Thai fishing boat was small and carried a crew of only seven, the Malaysian ship acted as if the boat was an enemy's and fired at it on the grounds that it was violating Malaysian waters 180 nautical miles north of Kota Baharu.

We wonder if the Malaysian ship from the base in Pahang State deliberately fired at the Thai coastal fishing boat with an intention to kill. It attacked the boat as if it were at war. The claim that warning shots went astray does not sound plausible, because warning shots should be fired a good distance to the front of a boat and not directly at it.

We wonder if Malaysia follows the Law of the Sea and the traditional procedures accepted throughout the world, which came into existence at the Caracas meeting held under UN auspices some two decades ago. Or does Malaysia follow its own law, which exploits the agreement made with Thailand that requires Thai boats to apply for advance permission to transit its waters?

Many times we feel that "innocent passage" in the Law of the Sea means nothing for Thai fishing boats in Malaysian waters. Thai boats returning home laden with fish must transit Malaysian waters. Many of them, each worth millions of baht, have been seized and their crewmen prosecuted simply because Malaysia held that they must apply for transit permission in advance. This is why we have seen many reports of Thai boats being seized for violating Malaysian waters and their crewmen jailed.

We want the Thai Government to review the agreement with Malaysia on the removal of border disputes in order to make it fair to both sides. In particular, the navigational aspect of the agreement must be clear. To leave it way it is now would intensify Thai fishermen's pains and would be exceedingly difficult to solve, possibly harming Thai-Malaysian relations. Malaysia cannot be allowed to use the 200-mile economic zone as if it is its territorial waters.

We urge the government to strongly protest to Malaysia to show Thailand's dissatisfaction and to demand compensation for the death of the two fishermen. A Malaysian apology is not enough. A negotiation to redress the current agreement must also be sought. (endall) 11 nov sb/gibbs/aa AG511111.018 11/1426z Nov 492 WC BT #1029 NNNN

Prime Minister Departs for Osaka APEC Summit

BK1711083595 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network
in Thai 0530 GMT 17 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The prime minister believes that the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation [APEC] meeting will promote the trade and investment climate among the member countries as well as broaden markets for Thai agricultural products.

Speaking with reporters at the Air Force airport this morning before departing for the third summit of the 18-member APEC in Osaka, Prime Minister Banhan Sinlapa-acha said the APEC ministerial level meeting yesterday decided that trade and investment will be liberalized. Agricultural products are also included in the liberalization. He said if the summit on the 19th can reach a consensus, Thai agricultural products will benefit from the summit:

[Begin Banhan recording] What we will gain is a trade and investment climate that will enable our business sector to flow. Second, we will be able to compete with non-member countries because we will have tariff advantages. Conversely, we will be able to buy goods from APEC countries at cheaper prices due to the reduction in tariffs. Another point is that there will be benefits from the relationship between the countries in the Asia-Pacific and the American continent. This is because it is easier to conduct trade and investment if you belong to a group than if you act independently. [end recording]

Hong Kong Help Asked in PRC Satellite Issue

BK1111095195 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 11 Nov 95 p 24

[Report by Suphaphan Plengmaniphun]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Thailand has called on Hong Kong-based AsiaSat to join with it in opposing a move by operators of China's Apstar 2 satellite for taking an orbital slot without reserving it.

Apstar 2 is scheduled to be launched early next year into an orbital position at 120 degrees East. This will interfere with Thaicom 3 which is to be launched in December 1996 at 121 degrees East.

The operators of Apstar 2 did not reserve an orbital position with the International Telecommunications Union [ITU] while Thailand always cooperates with the world body, said Kitti Yupho, director-general of the Post and Telegraph Department.

The department has asked AsiaSat, a Hong Kong-British satellite operator that has had problems with Apstar in the past, to join in a protest. The department has not yet received a reply, said Mr Kitti.

The department is prepared to take other measures if the launch of Apstar 2 cannot be stopped. It could negotiate with China to give another orbital slot to Thailand in exchange for allowing Apstar 2 to take 120 degrees East, he said.

Meanwhile, the department has asked Chinnawat Satellite Plc, operator of the Thaicom satellites, to discuss the matter directly with Apstar officials.

ITU regulations require a satellite operator to report interference problems within four months of their occurrence. However, Apstar 2 will be launched almost one year ahead of Thaicom 3. Thailand already knows there will be interference and wants the problem dealt with now rather than sometime after the launch of Thaicom 3.

Thailand's Ambassador to China, Sawanit Khongsiri said he had asked the Apstar operators to postpone the launch until the problem can be resolved, but he has not received a reply.

'Businessman' Comments on Khun Sa, Drug Issues

BK0911152295 Bangkok DAILY NEWS in Thai 6 Nov 95 pp 1, 17

[Unattributed Report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Drug kingpin Khun Sa's army has been fighting Burmese Government troops for national liberation for several years. Both sides have reportedly suffered heavy casualties. A businessman who has been dealing with Khun Sa's group for decades told DAILY NEWS on 5 November that Khun Sa's annual budget to buy weapons and war equipment for his Muang Tai Army [MTA] is not less than 5 billion baht. Of that figure, some 2.4 billion baht was earned from the collection of protection fees from heroin and opium caravans travelling through the areas under his control. The other 1.6 billion baht came from taxing opium growers in the Shan State, where the cool climate is suitable for opium cultivation. In addition to these two sources of revenue, Khun Sa has also collected a monthly protection fee of 10,000 baht from each truck that goes between the border township of Tachilek and Mandalay City.

The businessman disclosed that good quality jade sold in the areas under Khun Sa's control is subject to taxation of 30 percent of the purchase value. Some 24 million baht is collected from cattle that are herded through his areas. Tax imposed on timbers and logs cut by Thai concessionaires is 30 percent of the official prices set by the Burmese Government. Meanwhile, the amount of heroin produced in Khun Sa's areas remains unchanged and continues to generate income for the drug warlord. This has a direct effect on Thailand because there are several places along the border where heroin can be smuggled into Thailand before sending it out to markets in European countries and the United States. The major concern now is that Khun Sa is producing amphetamines, which are easier to produce than heroin. The amphetamines are much stronger than those produced in Thailand because they are mixed with morphine. It is being produced for use in the army. Wounded soldiers use it as a pain killer and a stimulant to enable them to continue fighting the enemy. The new drug is being found in the Thai market in large quantities.

Banphot Piamdi, director of the Narcotics Suppression Center in the Northern Region, revealed that heroin production in the north has declined due to efforts by the government. Restrictions have been imposed on the purchase and transport of chemical solutions, which can be used for heroin production. Immigration authorities have been keeping a close watch on movements of chemists, mostly from Hong Kong and Singapore, who are known to have expertise in heroin production. Opium cultivation also dropped to the lowest level. Statistics showed that in 1995, only 4,680 rai [2.5 rai is equivalent to one acre] was used to grow opium. The production was estimated at 7,000 kilograms. Most of the opium was grown by the Karen for their own consumption. Now children of hill tribes have been educated and informed of the danger of narcotics. He believes that opium cultivation will soon be wiped out of Thailand. There are very few heroin factories still operating in the country. Heavy suppression drives, including the raid on a large heroin factory in Mae Suai District of Chiang Rai Province two years ago, forced other factories to move to the border areas of our neighboring countries such as Laos and Burma.

SLORC Demand for Casualties Compensation Noted

BK1011072395 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 10 Nov 95 p 1

[Report by Watsana Nanum, Matchima Chansawangphuwana and Wanchai Wachirasasithon]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A demand by Rangoon for compensation for the deaths of three Burmese in a Muang Tai Army assault has taken Thai military leaders aback.

The demand came as reports reached Bangkok that six Thai crewmen had been killed by Burmese aboard a trawler in Burmese waters on Sunday.

A thorn in increasingly sensitive relations has been the murder of three Burmese crewmen aboard a Thai trawler in August.

The call for compensation was made by Lt-Gen Khin Nyunt, first secretary of the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC], to Gen Chettha Thanacharo, deputy army commander, in Rangoon, a source said yesterday.

Deemed by the junta a precondition to improved ties, the Burmese said Bangkok should pay because Khun Sa's forces launched their attack on Tachilek from Thai soil.

Lt-Gen Khin Nyunt told Gen Chettha he had to act because he would otherwise be accused of failing the Burmese people.

It was initially reported that 30 Burmese soldiers were killed in the March attack but there was no word of civilian casualties.

The Burmese junta claims three civilians were killed in the crossfire.

The demand came out of the blue and was not raised by Maj-Gen Ket Sein, commander of Burma's Southeastern Force, when he met Gen Chettha for border committee talks in Mae Sot, Tak.

The SLORC official was quoted as saying: "The quicker the issue is settled, the better it will be for relations."

A Thai military official said: "It is beyond our understanding how Burma can make such a demand and hold us responsible for the incident."

Gen Chettha was also told by the SLORC official that legal matters needed to be tackled before work on the Thai-Burmese Friendship Bridge could resume after the June 7 suspension.

The source said the bridge issue could be complex because Burma was linking it to accusations that Thais laid rocks and built structures on the bank of the Moei River in Mae Sot which encroach upon Burmese territory.

Thailand insists the rocks or concrete structures were built to changing current and could not violate Burmese sovereignty.

The source said Gen Chettha was also urged by Lt-Gen Khin Nyunt to settle the case of Burmese crew killed in August.

The latest murders on the high seas involved the trawler Paknam 5 as it was reportedly fishing illegally in Burmese waters on November 5.

A Thai crewman who jumped into the sea and was picked up by another Thai vessel two days later said 13 Burmese crew mutinied.

The Burmese, using knives and wooden staves, attacked the Thais and dumped their bodies into the sea, said Supanya Ketchan, 16.

Among the six believed killed was the skipper Suphon Bampensi.

Mr Supanya survived despite being stabbed in the waist, said Suthi Nangsu, owner of the 5.5-million-baht trawler, which was taken further into Burmese waters.

Deputy Agriculture Minister Monthon Kraiwatnuson suggested the cause of the conflict in both cases was the high-technology equipment on the vessels.

Since Thai vessels were involved, he said, any action must be handled by Thai courts.

Fisheries Department Deputy Director Kitcha Chaiyen said the latest development was unlikely to induce Rangoon to lift its ban on Thai trawlers even though the victims were Thai.

It took place in Burmese waters, which had clearly been violated, Mr Kitcha said.

Foreign Ministry representations would have to be tempered because Thailand could not be seen to be trying to protect wrongdoers, he said.

Rangoon banned Thai trawlers after the three Burmese crewmen were murdered by Thais in August and said its forces would fire on any Thai fishing vessel in its territorial waters.

Several meetings have been held by high-ranking officials of the two countries but no significant progress has been made towards easing relations.

Another meeting between Burmese Deputy Prime Minister Maung Maung Khin and Defence Minister Chawalit Yongchaiyut is scheduled to be held here next week. The Burmese Deputy Premier is due for a five-day visit on November 14.

Mr Kitcha said a number of Thai vessels were still defying the Burmese ban and he admitted there was little to stop them violating territorial waters of neighbouring countries.

Tough new proposals, including a requirement that fishing vessels have international fishing licences and report all foreign voyages to official agencies, were being considered by the National Fishery Committee, he said.

Laos Supported as Host for MRC Secretariat

BK0911094295 Bangkok THE NATION in English 9 Nov 95 p A2

[Report by Don Pathan and Kunlachada Chaiphiphat]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vientiane — Thailand will support Laos' bid to host the Secretariat Office of the Mekong River Commission (MRC) in Vientiane, Foreign Minister MR [Mom Ratchawong — member of royal family] Kasemsamoson Kasemsi announced yesterday.

The announcement was made prior to his departure to Vientiane to attend the fifth Thai-Laos Joint Commission, at which the two countries discussed several issues ranging from economic cooperation to security along the border.

Kasemsamoson's announcement was considered to be a change in the Thai position which earlier wanted the secretariat to remain in Bangkok.

Foreign Ministry Permanent Secretary MR Thep Thewakun said Kasemsamoson felt Thailand was already host to a number of international organizations.

"We should share with our neighbours," he said.

Thep said Laos was the first country to ask Thailand to support its bid, and denied that there were "strings attached" to the announced support.

The MRC is the re-creation of the 38 year-old Mekong Committee. The body was formally established last April in Chiang Rai by foreign ministers of the four riparian countries: Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos.

The four signed a framework agreement on the sustainable development of water resources from the Mekong River. Since the signing, the four countries have each lobbied to host the MRC Secretariat which is presently located in Bangkok.

Currently, a fact-finding mission commissioned by the MRC is conducting a survey of four proposed locations — Phnom Penh, Bangkok, Vientiane, and Ho Chi Minh City — to determine which is most suitable for the office. The survey is expected to be concluded by next year and the findings submitted to the MRC ministerial level council.

One of the criteria for the location is that it locate the office within the river' basin area, and provide adequate facilities to support the work and personnel of the secretariat.

Burma and China have both expressed interest in the MRC itself but fall short of becoming members for fear of losing sovereignty over the right to use the river's water.

Results of Cooperation Meeting With Laos Noted

BK1011065795 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0530 GMT 10 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A joint Thai-Lao cooperation committee meeting was held in Vientiane from 8 to

9 November. Foreign Minister M.R. Kasemsamoson Kasemsi headed the Thai delegation while Somsavat Lengsavat, Lao minister of foreign affairs, led the Lao team.

The results of the meeting can be summarized as follows:

On the issue of security along borders of the two countries, the committee deemed it suitable that further meetings be held among border provincial governors and delegations of the two countries.

On communications, the two countries agreed to construct a bridge across Nam Heuang river linking Ban Na Kaseng, Tha Li District, Loei Province, and Laos' Mok District, Sayaboury Province.

On the energy issue, Thailand agreed to increase its purchase of electricity from Laos from 1,500 megawatts to 2,500 megawatts in 2005.

Regarding construction of a railway from Vientiane to Nong Khai, the Lao side reported that a Thai private company has been conducting a survey and designs. Further progress on the project will be provided later to the Thai side.

Doubts Expressed Over Insurance Liberalization

BK1111120995 Bangkok THE NATION in English 11 Nov 95 pp B1, B2

[Report by Suwatchai Kingngoen]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The president and chief operations officer of John Hancock Mutual Life Insurance, William Boyan, said yesterday that the Thai Commerce Ministry's liberalization plan may negatively affect policy holders if it allows too many new players to enter the market at once.

As many as 20 new local life insurance companies may be approved in 1996 as insurance regulatory authorities are discussing liberalization plans.

Boyan noted that, if liberalization is to occur, it should be introduced gradually so that customer service is not sacrificed.

"The industry has limited numbers of personnel and a rapid influx of new players could strain the situation," Boyan said.

He hoped that the Commerce Ministry would not allow the establishment of as many as 20 new life insurance companies.

Boyan said he supported the concept of increasing competitiveness in the industry, but urged the Commerce Ministry to develop strict policies before allowing new companies to start business.

"I have discussed this issue with the Life Insurance Association, and we concluded that an increase of one company per year for the next five years should be sufficient," he said.

A similar situation exists in the banking industry, which is likely to find that its customers are negatively affected when a number of new banks are established, Boyan said.

He said that, with limited human resources in the life insurance industry, new companies would try to poach staff from existing companies.

"At first glance it may seem that more companies would benefit customers, but the negative side is that business ethics in the life insurance industry will fall," he said.

Although he predicted that the scenario in the short term would be difficult, in the long term competition should stimulate further growth in the industry.

"I certainly concur with the liberalization, but disagree with the number of companies to be allowed in," he added.

He said that the ministry should have instituted a personnel training programme to support the industry before opening up the market.

John Hancock currently owns 25 per cent of Interlife Assurance Plc of Thailand.

Michael Allan, managing director of Interlife, predicted that local companies would be forced to find foreign partners to succeed in the new, competitive landscape.

Allen added that, in preparation for the increased competition, his company has requested staff from its Boston headquarters to develop a training program.

He claimed that John Hancock conducts the most effective training programme in the United States and has already established the benchmark training programme in the country.

Interlife's financial performance for the first nine months of the year showed a downturn in revenue.

Army Commander on Equipment Needs, Readiness

BK0911162795 Bangkok MATICHON in Thai 4 Nov 95 p 3

[FBIS Translated Text] Commenting during an interview on a UN report that says Thailand is one of the countries that is building up a huge arms stockpile, Army Commander General Pramon Phalasin said: "How can they say we have a lot or a little? What are their criteria? This is nonsense. Our stuff is 30-40 years old. They should come and see what we have. We need it for our national defense. Our strategy is defensive, not aggressive. They do not really know what we have. How can they say we have too much?"

Asked if the Army has enough weapons, General Pramon replied: "We do not have enough yet. There is a shortage. We will determine what we really need. Meanwhile, our old weapons and equipment will have to be renovated."

The Army commander said: "Compact but effective — this is our slogan. We keep reducing the size of our Army, but we have not done anything to ensure its effectiveness. The Army has already reduced its personnel by 40,000 men. It is not easy for Army units to achieve combat readiness."

Editorial Urges Unity Among Coalition Parties

BK1011115395 Bangkok THAI RAT in Thai
10 Nov 95 p 3

[Editorial: "Fearful of Disintegration"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The ruling government of Prime Minister Banhan Sinlapa-acha, with the majority of votes in the House under its command, can never be toppled by the opposition bloc. The only thing that can cause the disintegration of the present government is disunity derived from greed and the undue ambitions of the coalition parties. This can impair the good image of Thailand in the eyes of other countries.

Any politically conscious Thai citizen knows that the government will never yield to the public demand for a cabinet reshuffle to improve the country's image and rescue the economic situation, stock market, and the country's credibility in the international community because it wants to make sure that the draft budget bill for FY 1996 is passed into law first. A cabinet reshuffle at this moment could mean the rejection of the bill by the National Assembly. If that happens, the government must resign.

The current political reality is a conflict of opinions among the coalition parties. Even members of the ruling Chat Thai Party itself have held frequent meetings in a bid to settle their disagreements. Nevertheless, misunderstanding continues to prevail as the 29 Thoet Thai faction MP's threaten to leave the party if [Deputy Finance Minister] Newin Chitchop is dismissed from his portfolio.

This conflict naturally has a direct negative impact on the government's stability, the country's credibility, and the economy at home and abroad. This sort of situation, to a certain extent, hampers our foreign investment promotion efforts and scares potential investors to other countries. The fragile stock market has been hard hit by the political capriciousness.

We appeal to this government and the coalition parties to protect our national image and credibility, which are very important in the world community. Their aggravating bickering and conflicts are tantamount to trampling on the country's good reputation. We must have a united government to take care of several important events scheduled to take place in Thailand from now until April that will draw the world's attention.

In December, we will celebrate the 50th anniversary of his majesty the king's ascension to the throne. This is a big event for our beloved monarchy. In the same month, Thailand will host the ASEAN summit meeting. The royal cremation ceremony and the joint ASEAN-European meeting will take place in March 1996; these events are important for the country's monarchy and economy, respectively.

It is absolutely necessary to have a united government free from greed, undue ambition, and rivalry for power. We call on all parties to practice perseverance until this period passes. After that, they can do anything they want, even dissolve the parliament.

Vietnam

U.S. Economic Delegates Visit Hospital in Hanoi

BK0911160695 Hanoi VNA in English
1447 GMT 9 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA Nov. 9 — An American interagency economic delegation which is now on a four day-visit to Vietnam, called at Viet-Duc Hospital yesterday to see how effectively an American-donated water purification system was working.

The delegation included Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Robert S. Larussa, Vector Venture Corporation President Amyn S. Dahya and representative of the American Embassy in Vietnam Mr. Ken Moorefield, and others.

The American purification system built by Diamond Rain Company under the Vector Venture Corporation, was donated to the Vietnamese Government Office last year before the prime minister transferred it to Viet-Duc Hospital which was one of the oldest hospitals in Hanoi. The system was the first of its kind ever installed in the hospital and sufficiently provided water for four of the hospital's one dozen operation theatres.

After seeing the system's operation, the American guests planned to install more water purification systems in other hospitals and schools in Vietnam.

The Vector Venture Corporation was one of the major companies in the U.S. using environmentally-safe technologies for both commercial and humanitarian purposes.

ASEAN Passport Holders To Enter Sans Visas

BK1311091995 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 12 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Vietnamese Government has allowed bearers of official passports issued by ASEAN countries to be present in Vietnam within 15 days without a visa. A visa-free status is also offered to any ASEAN citizen who takes part in an activity in Vietnam within 15 days as guest of the ASEAN Secretariat or any Vietnamese organizations.

The Vietnamese diplomatic missions overseas shall issue within one or two days visas for citizens, business people, and tourists of ASEAN who come to Vietnam not more than 15 days. Overseas Vietnamese who visit the country within 90 days will be facilitated in getting a visa quickly.

Official Cautious About Early APEC Membership

OW1611102895 Tokyo MAINICHI SHIMBUN in Japanese 16 Nov 95 Morning Edition p 11

[FBIS Translated Text] Vu Hoan [name as transliterated], vice minister of foreign affairs of Vietnam, gave an exclusive interview to MAINICHI SHIMBUN in Hanoi recently, in which he discussed the SRV's membership in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum.

He said: "The Vietnamese economy is still at a low level of development, and our understanding of APEC is still insufficient." He thus showed a cautious attitude toward early membership in APEC.

The vice minister stated: "Vietnam is a member of the Asia- Pacific region politically, economically and geographically. We would like to join APEC in the future." He said he is "grateful" for the support of the ASEAN states, Japan and China for the SRV's membership in APEC.

However, with regard to a concrete schedule for the SRV's membership, he revealed that there is a strong opinion in the government that it is still "premature" for the following reasons: 1) time is needed to understand and study APEC's liberalization measures and other policies; 2) the Vietnamese economy is still in the initial stage of reforms for transition to a market economy; 3) lack of English-speaking officials.

The vice minister said: "Unfortunately, APEC does not have a system for participation as an observer." He explained that the next best thing to do is for Vietnam to study APEC through membership in the Pacific Economic Cooperation Conference (PECC) and other private level groups.

Results of Mekong Subregion Meeting in Manila

BK1611034395 Hanoi VNA in English 1243 GMT 15 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA Nov. 15—The fifth expanded Mekong Sub-Regional Meeting on Economic Cooperation has been held in Manila with the participation of delegates from Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar [Burma], Thailand, China and Vietnam.

The Vietnamese delegation, headed by Deputy Prime Minister Tran Duc Luong, included Vice Minister of Planning and Investment Vo Hong Phuc, Vice Minister of Transport and Communications La Ngoc Khue and representatives of various ministries and branches.

The meeting also drew delegates from various international bilateral and multilateral organisations, the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the Japanese Foreign Ministry and other concerned bodies.

During the meeting, Deputy Prime Minister Tran Duc Luong met with the ADB vice president. He highly valued ADB's support to Vietnam and expressed his wish that the ADB would continue its assistance to Vietnam in infrastructure building.

The participants discussed priority projects in the fields of transport and communications, energy, environment, development of human resources, commerce, investment and tourism in order to make a plan of action in the coming period. They also ratified reports presented at meetings and working group meetings on transport, energy, environment, tourism, posts and telecommunications, development of human resources, commerce and investment held from November 1994 to November 1995 in sub-regional countries and at the Asian Development Bank.

The participants also approved a plan of action for the third stage of the cooperation programme among the sub-regional countries with a view to stepping up the preparation for the implementation of selected priority projects.

Among the 77 selected priority projects, those in the field of transport were drawing particular attention. The feasibility survey for the restoration of the highway that links Bangkok-Phnom Penh-Ho Chi Minh City with

Vung Tau has been completed, paving the way for technical design and bidding for construction.

In the next year, meetings will be held in sub-regional countries and the 6th high-level Mekong Sub-Regional Meeting will be organized in China.

Representatives of international organisations highly appreciated the results of the meeting which, they said, had made contributions to the economic cooperation programme as well as peace and friendship in the Mekong sub-region.

East Asian Declaration on Children Adopted

BK1711043395 Hanoi VNA in English
1455 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA November 16 — Ministers of state planning, public health and education and senior officials from 18 countries in East Asia and Pacific, gathering in Hanoi this week jointly with UNICEF, adopted an 11-point 'Hanoi Declaration', reaffirming their commitment to a series of national measures that safeguard children's needs and interests to the year 2000 and beyond.

The ministerial consultation which drew nearly 200 policy-makers, planners and implementors, agreed to press ahead with a set of time- bound goals which aim at further improving the living standards and conditions of the region's more than half a billion children. The consultation, the third being held, also made a new commitment to addressing the needs of children in poverty and especially difficult circumstances to ensure they are not left out in national development efforts.

Among others, the 'Hanoi Declaration' pledged to give increased attention to child development, improving the quality and relevance of basis services, and mechanisms to protect children from abuse and neglect, and to strengthen earlier achievements in child survival.

The three-day meeting includes a review of the education for all initiative that seeks to address education for all children, girls in particular, as an effective, long-term strategy to propety [as received] alleviation and nation-building. The ministerial consultation is co-organized by the Vietnam Committee for the Protection and Care of Children, UNICEF and UNESCO.

Friendship Delegation Visits PRC 31 Oct-10 Nov

BK1411094795 Hanoi VNA in English
0656 GMT 14 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA Nov. 14 — A delegation of the Vietnam Union of Friendship Organisations led by its President Nguyen Quang Dao paid a friendship visit to China from Oct. 31-Nov. 10 at the invitation of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC).

While there, the Vietnamese guests were received by Sima Yu [name as received], member of China's State Council, and Mr. Li Chengren deputy-head of the External Liaison Department of the Communist Party of China Central Committee. They had a working session with Vice-President of the CPAFFC Xu Qun [name as received], during which hosts and guests exchanged opinions on ways and means to friendship activities between the peoples of Vietnam and China, thus contributing to the development of economic cooperation between the two countries.

They also called at some economic and cultural establishments during their visit.

Bilateral Trade Talks Held With China

BK1411020695 Hanoi VNA in English
1442 GMT 13 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA Nov. 13— Vietnamese Deputy Minister of Commerce Truong Dinh Tuyen and Chinese Deputy Minister of Trade and Foreign Economic Relations Li Guohua held talks in Hanoi today to discuss ways and means to bolster their bilateral trade and mutually-beneficial economic cooperation.

The talks took place pursuant to an agreement on the establishment of the Vietnam-China Commission for Trade and Economic Cooperation signed in November last year. This was the first session of the commission.

Also at the session, the two sides were of the view that the agreements on economic and commercial co-operation signed between the two governments have played an important role in the Vietnam-China relations of trade promotion and economic development.

China and Vietnam agreed to take measures to ensure all agreements signed between them be observed and realised. They also agreed that effective measures will be taken to intensify control of cross-border trades and help them to attain healthy and orderly development.

While here, Mrs. Li Guohua, who is leading a Chinese delegation to the session, is expected to make tours of several businesses and meet with leading officials of concerned ministries and offices.

Deputy Premier Receives Official

BK1611075995 Hanoi VNA in English
0610 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA Nov.15 — Deputy Prime Minister Phan Van Khai received here today

Chinese Deputy Minister of Commerce Ms. Li Guohua who has been here for the first session of the Sino-Vietnamese Commission for Economic and Commercial Cooperation.

Deputy Prime Minister Khai renewed Vietnam's preparedness to facilitate Chinese investments in Vietnam for mutual benefits and expressed the wish that the two countries would boost economic cooperation and trade exchange to an extent commensurate with the capacity and demand of each country.

Chinese Deputy Minister Ms. Li Guohua expressed her belief that bilateral trade would be rapidly promoted. She also dealt with the feasibility studies which the Chinese side has been developing for the Ha Bac nitrogenous fertiliser factory and the Thai Nguyen steel company in northern Vietnam.

The first session discussed issues relating to border trade, bilateral commercial cooperation, China-funded development projects, and direction for future trade development.

Minutes of the first session were signed here this afternoon by the heads of the Vietnamese and Chinese delegations to the session, Deputy Trade Minister Mr. Truong Dinh Tuyen and Deputy Commerce Minister Ms. Li guohua, respectively.

Hanoi Supports Moves on Alleged Coup Plotters

BK1611122495 Hong Kong AFP in English
1210 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi, Nov 16 (AFP) — Vietnam said Thursday that it supported moves by Cambodia to arrest a group of anti-Communist Vietnamese-Americans allegedly plotting against to overthrow the government in Hanoi.

"We support necessary measures by the Cambodian government to punish any activities that violate their law and to stop plots to sabotage the relations of friendship and cooperation between the Vietnam and Cambodia," a foreign ministry spokesman said.

The comment came in response to news that the Cambodian government was hunting four Vietnamese-American leaders of the "Free Vietnam" movement, a Cambodian-based group believed to have several hundred supporters.

Reports in Phnom Penh said the group was funded by ethnic Vietnamese and had established a network of front businesses to disguise their activities. Its leaders were all once high ranking members of the South Vietnamese army.

Sources in the Cambodian capital said the group lacked any significant structure or arms but its presence in a neighbouring country had alarmed the government in Hanoi.

Hanoi frequently warns the security services to be on guard against such plots, which the foreign ministry spokesman said "threaten peace and stability in the region."

Cambodia has said it will round up the ringleaders of the group and deport them. Phnom Penh has insisted that it offered no support to the group.

The public exposure of the group has come as an embarrassment to relations ahead of an expected state visit to Hanoi in December by King Norodom Sihanouk.

Ties between the neighbours are still uneasy, with animosity lingering on both sides. Vietnam invaded Cambodia in 1978 to oust the Khmer Rouge following a series of clashes along their disputed border.

Vietnam later installed a pro-Hanoi government and withdrew its troops in 1989 ahead of a peace agreement signed in 1991.

Thai Deputy Prime Minister Receives Journalists

BK0811163495 Hanoi VNA in English
1620 GMT 8 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA Nov.8 — Thai Deputy Prime Minister [P.M.] Sombun Rahong on Nov.3 received the visiting delegation of the Vietnam Journalists' Association headed by its President Phan Quang.

Speaking to his Vietnamese guests, Deputy P.M. Rahong expressed his hope for the further promotion of the relations and cooperation between the Thailand Press Association and the Vietnam Journalists' Association in general and the two countries' journalists in particular. He spoke highly of the Vietnamese media workers' contributions to the strengthening of mutual understanding between the two peoples and of Vietnam's economic achievements and the Vietnamese people's industry and creativeness.

During a week-long visit to Thailand from Nov.1, the Vietnamese journalist delegation had working sessions with the Press Association of Thailand headed by its President Suphakhet and Honorary President Bandit. It also visited a number of cultural establishments and scenery in Phatthaya and Chiang Mai Province.

Phan Van Khai Receives Lao Education Minister

*BK1111075895 Hanoi VNA in English
1452 GMT 10 Nov 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA Nov. 10 — Deputy Prime Minister Phan Van Khai received here this afternoon Lao Minister of Education Mr. Phimmason who is leading a delegation now on a visit to Vietnam from Nov. 8.

Deputy Prime Minister Khai expressed his pleasure at the outcomes of cooperation and mutual assistance in education and training between Vietnam and Laos. He said that Vietnam which has been bound with Laos by traditional friendship was ready to meet Laos's demand in personnel training and to take measures to expand its cooperation with Laos to an extent commensurate with the political relations between the two countries. He also confirmed that with experience in building boarding schools and training cadres for highland and mountain regions, Vietnam will be able to help Laos develop education .

Lao Education Minister Phimmason expressed his sincere thanks to Vietnam for its effective cooperation with and assistance to Laos in education and training.

Australia Signs My Thuan Bridge Aid Agreement

*BK1611075495 Hanoi VNA in English
0610 GMT 16 Nov 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA Nov.15. — Vietnamese Minister of Transport Communication Bui Danh Luu and Australian Minister for Trade and Overseas Development Gordon Bilney signed in Canberra today an agreement on detailed design of My Thuan Bridge across Mekong River in southern Vietnam.

In reply to the mass media, the Vietnamese minister cited the importance of the project to the socioeconomic development of the Mekong River Delta. He highly valued the aid granted by the Australian Government to Vietnam's development and the mutually-beneficial cooperation between Vietnam and Australia.

The same day, Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating and Minister Gordon Bilney announced Australian Government's assistance to Vietnam to build My Thuan Bridge with an expected cost of AUD 54 million (USD 40.33 million), saying that the My Thuan Bridge project is part of the Australia-Vietnam cooperation programme in infrastructure construction, healthcare, natural resource development, and education.

Canadian Foreign Minister Meets Vo Van Kiet

*BK1411021095 Hanoi VNA in English
1442 GMT 13 Nov 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA Nov. 13—Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet received here today Canadian Foreign Minister Andre Ouellet who is on an official visit to Vietnam as guest of Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam.

Vo Van Kiet expressed his pleasure at the development of cooperative relations between Vietnam and Canada and at the outcome of the visit through the signing of cooperation agreements between the two governments.

He said he hoped that all relevant ministries and offices as well as social and cultural organisations from the two countries would continue to work together for closer Vietnam-Canada cooperation.

For his part, Andre Ouellet said "Canada and Vietnam are members of many important international forums. This will help both countries to promote mutual understanding for stronger confidence- building and cooperation, thus contributing to strengthening security in the region and the world as a whole".

He also told Mr Kiet that Canada is prepared to support and help Vietnam to increase its activities in ASEAN as well as to join other international bodies.

'Successfully' Concludes Visit

*BK1511085795 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network
in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 14 Nov 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] In Ho Chi Minh City today, Canadian Foreign Minister Andre Ouellet paid a courtesy call on Pham Chanh Truc, chairman of the Ho Chi Minh City People's Committee. Afterward, he officially inaugurated the Canadian Consulate General in Ho Chi Minh City and hosted a reception on the occasion.

Also today, Foreign Minister Andre Ouellet, his wife, and entourage left Vietnam, successfully concluding their official friendship visit to our country.

Bilateral Trade Issues Discussed With UK Group

*BK0611160995 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network
in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 6 Nov 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Today our country's trade delegation, led by Minister Le Van Triet, received and held talks with an economic and trade delegation from the United Kingdom, which is now on a working visit to Vietnam and is led by His Excellency Secretary Fraser [secretary for trade and industry].

The two sides informed each other of the economic situation in their respective countries, of the development of their bilateral trade relations, and of their potential for cooperation in the period ahead.

Vietnam can export to Britain such agricultural products as tea, coffee, marine products, food seasonings, and garments and can purchase from Britain such industrial products as chemicals, fertilizer, electric motors, electric cables, office equipment, nonferrous metals processing machines, and the like.

Kohl Arrives, Meets With Vo Van Kiet

BK1611130695 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] German Chancellor Dr. Helmut Kohl arrived in Hanoi today to pay an official friendship visit to our country at the invitation of Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet. Accompanying Chancellor Helmut Kohl are Economics Minister Dr. Guenter Rexrodt; Dr. Wolfgang Boetsch, minister for posts and telecommunications; Dr. Juergen Ruettgers, minister for education, science, and research; Dr. (Van Hoier), secretary of state for foreign affairs; Klaus- Christian Kramemer, German ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Vietnam; and many German state officials.

The official ceremony to welcome His Excellency Chancellor Helmut Kohl and his entourage began at 1600 sharp at the Presidential Palace Square. Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet and Chancellor Helmut Kohl stood on the honorary dais while a military band played the German and Vietnamese national anthems. The national flags of the two countries fluttered in the sunshine and the entire square looked bright with flags and flowers. Many leading officials in ministries, sectors, and agencies at the central level and in Hanoi as well as foreign ambassadors and representatives of international organizations in Hanoi warmly welcomed his excellency the German chancellor. Following the playing of the German and Vietnamese national anthems, Chancellor Helmut Kohl and Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet inspected the Vietnam People's Army honor guard and shook hands with the officials present at the welcoming ceremony.

Soon after the welcoming ceremony, Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet held talks with His Excellency Chancellor Helmut Kohl. Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet warmly welcomed Chancellor Helmut Kohl's visit to Vietnam and asserted that with this visit, relations between the SRV and the Federal Republic of Germany will be consolidated and developed further in the interest of the two peoples.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl expressed his delight at visiting Vietnam and witnessing the achievements of the Vietnamese people's national construction cause. He asserted that friendly and cooperative ties between Germany and Vietnam will be consolidated and developed with each passing day in keeping with the trend of the times and in response to the interests of each country.

Speaks at Hanoi Banquet

BK1711083995 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet hosted a grand banquet at the Government Guest House this evening in honor of the Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, Dr Helmut Kohl, who arrived in Hanoi this afternoon for an official friendship visit to Vietnam.

Also attending the banquet on the Vietnamese side were Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam; Minister of State Le Xuan Trinh, director of the Government Office; Mr Do Quoc Sam, minister of planning and investment; Ho Te, minister of finance; and many leading officials of a number of Vietnamese ministries and sectors; and on the FRG side were Dr Guenter Rexrodt, minister of economy; Dr Wolfgang Boetsch, minister for post and telecommunications; Dr [Jurgen Brisker], minister of training, science, research, and technology; Dr [Van Horscher], minister of national foreign affairs; and other FRG delegates.

In a cordial atmosphere permeated with the feelings of unity, the two prime ministers spoke, expressing their joy over the beautiful prospects of Vietnamese-FRG relations that are developing in proportion with each country's urgent demands for national construction and development and that are making general contributions to regional and international development.

In his speech, Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet pointed out: This is an important visit marking a new milestone in the history of Vietnamese-FRG relations. The agreements which have been signed during the visit are the most positive manifestations of Vietnamese- FRG relations.

The prime minister affirmed: The government and people of Vietnam attach great importance to their cooperative relations with the FRG and hope that these cooperative relations will bloom and bear fruit. He expressed the hope that with the existing potentials and the willingness of the two countries, these expectations will be fulfilled.

In his reply, Chancellor Helmut Kohl said that with their great and common efforts, the two countries have made strides in building their relations of friendship.

His excellency Chancellor Helmut Kohl hoped that the bilateral relations will constantly develop and affirmed that he would continue to assist Vietnam in its national reconstruction.

His excellency Chancellor Helmut Kohl highly valued the open-door policy of Vietnam and its approach toward the market economy.

The banquet took place in a cordial atmosphere permeated with feelings of unity and friendship.

Earlier, representatives of the FRG and Vietnamese governments signed four important documents. These are: a joint statement on the establishment of a Vietnamese-German dialogue forum, an agreement on the avoidance of double taxation, an agreement on financial cooperation for fiscal year 95, and the minutes of an agreement on cooperation in the post and telegraph area.

Paper Views Kohl's Visit, Ties With Germany

BK1611080995 Hanoi VNA in English 0657 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi Vna Nov.16 — The official visit to Vietnam by Dr. Helmut Kohl, federal chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany beginning today will boost the friendship and cooperation between the two countries, contributing to the building of each country, as well as to common cooperation and development in the region, the NHAN DAN newspaper says in a front page editorial today.

The paper welcomes the visit, and notes that the two governments have joined efforts to make the visit successful. The expected high-level meetings and bilateral cooperation agreements to be signed during the visit will be the basis for further development of the comprehensive cooperation between the two countries, thus ushering in a better stage of Vietnamese-German ties, it adds.

The paper continues 'the Vietnamese people warmly welcome the visit of Chancellor Helmut Kohl and highly value the German Government's good intention of boosting the friendship, and effective and equitable cooperation with Vietnam for the future development and interests of each country.'

'The Federal Republic of Germany', NHAN DAN says,is one of the seven top developed countries, which holds an important position in the international economic, political and commercial life. Pursuing its social-market economic policy, Germany has succeded in building an economy of modern agro-industry, services and trade with up-to-date and effective technology, leading the world in many sectors.'

'The Vietnam-Germany friendly and cooperative relations over recent years have made encouraging steps,and expanded in various fields, levels, and forms. Among many accords on economic, cultural, scientific and technical cooperation signed between the two countries, some have been implemented fruitfully.

Many branches and businessmen of the two countries continue to inquire into possibilities for cooperation. Many giant German companies have started their operation in Vietnam,' the paper goes on, adding that 'Germany has annually granted Vietnam a considerable sum of development aid. The two-way trade turnover is strongly increasing, reaching a record of nearly DM 1 billion this year. However the present bilateral cooperation is still not commemsurate with the potential and expectation of the peoples of the two countries,' the editorial concludes.

Vo Van Kiet Welcomes Swiss Aid Package Offer

BK1011023295 Hanoi VNA in English 1437 GMT 9 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA Nov. 9 — Swiss Ambassador Jurg Leutert today told Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet that Switzerland would double its aid package to Vietnam next year.

Jurg Leutert, who called on the Vietnamese leader this afternoon, said 'Switzerland will do all it can to cooperate with and assist Vietnam in the renovation process.'

The ambassador informed Vo Van Kiet of projects being undertaken by Swiss business people in Vietnam as well as projects due to be cad out in personnel training for the banking and other business sectors.

'Switzerland is finalizing a USD 250-million investment project in Hanoi City,' the diplomat told the prime minister.

Vo Van Kiet reiterated the Vietnamese people's resolve to successfully carry out their renovation process for national development. He also expressed his wish for closer and broader cooperative ties between Vietnam and Switzerland.

P.M. Vo Van Kiet further told the Swiss ambassador Vietnam's efforts to narrow the gap between Vietnam and other regional countries. As a result, he said 'support and help from other countries, including Switzerland are very necessary and significant.'

Prime Minister Issues Directive on Repatriation

BK1711101895 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The prime minister issued a directive on 15 November on the resettlement of Vietnamese citizens who are not granted the right of residence in other countries. The directive outlines the conditions and procedures for acceptance of these people. The targeted group for acceptance consideration includes people who still possess Vietnamese citizenship and do not have citizenship in another country, have maintained a residence in Vietnam before, and are now sponsored by economic or social organizations or by individuals. The principles of safety and respect for the dignity of these returnees must be observed.

The prime minister's directive also stipulates the responsibility of relevant bodies—such as the Ministries of Foreign Affairs; Interior; Labor, War Invalids, and Social Welfare; Finance; Public Health; and the people's committees of provinces and cities— regarding the reception of Vietnamese repatriates rejected by other countries.

Prime Minister on Controlling Migration

BK0811145895 Hanoi VNA in English 1233 GMT 8 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA Nov.8 — From now till the end of 1998, concerned branches and local authorities must resolve the problem of uncontrolled migration, a recent instruction issued by the prime minister [PM] says.

It is reported that from 1989 to 1994, about 113,000 families comprising 542,000 people had migrated to the central highlands provinces, bringing with them negative consequences such as land disputes, deforestation, an increase of slash-and-burn farming, and so on.

The prime minister requires relevant branches and local authorities to take effective and coordinated measures to make migration suit the national plan for social development. To this end, the PM's instruction stressed, concrete plans and measures, including expansion of cultivated areas,and the rearrangement of population, must be developed to impropve production and trades so that the migrants and locals have favourable conditions to stabilise their life and improve their living standards.

On the other hand, the arrangement of the migrants must be carried out hand in hand with proper solutions to land disputes, thus successfully avoiding deforestation and other social evils for the long-term target of socioeconomic development.

Ninth Plenum Adopts Resolution

BK1611105895 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 15 Nov 95

[Resolution adopted by the Seventh Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee's Ninth Plenum in Hanoi on 14 November]

[FBIS Translated Text] The seventh party Central Committee held its ninth plenum from 6 to 14 November 1995. After studying and discussing various draft reports from the party Central Committee to be presented at the upcoming eighth national party congress, the plenum decided:

— To assign the party Central Committee Political Bureau with the task of revising various party reports and documents on the basis of the results of voting at the party Central Committee's ninth plenum on some issues related to the content and drafting of documents for presentation to the eighth national party congress, and on the basis of the viewpoints expressed at this plenum. These documents include:

1. The political report;

2. The report on orientations, tasks, and plans for socioeconomic development for the five-year period from 1996 to 2000; and

3. The report on amending and supplementing the party statute and the revised party statute.

— Wide efforts must be made to solicit ideas on these documents at various levels of party organization congresses and among cadres, party members, and the people's strata to perfect the party Central Committee's reports and documents in a satisfactory manner for presentation to the eighth national party congress.

[Signed] On behalf of the party Central Committee, General Secretary Do Muoi. (endall) 152300 st/kuester/aa JK531611.012 16/1059

Preparations for National Party Congress Urged

BK0811143695 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 8 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At present, various sectors and localities throughout the country are conducting party congresses at various levels in preparation for the Eighth National Party Congress. It has been learned from a number of experimental party congresses conducted by grass-roots party organizations that the quality of these congresses depends mainly on how party organizations have prepared for their draft political reports. Based on this insight, QUAN DOI NHAN DAN carries an editorial in today's issue for 8 November entitled:

"Satisfactorily Making Various Steps of Preparation for Party Congresses at Various Levels." The editorial points out:

To ensure good preparations for political reports, draft political reports must be prepared early and then sent to the party chapters of various units concerned to solicit views from party members and non-party members. Such a draft report must be repeatedly supplemented to obtain correct analytical assessments of the strong and weak points in the leadership [of the party chapter committees concerned] in their previous term of office; to evaluate the actual situation; and to draw specific and realistic lessons on leadership, especially lessons on how to reduce weaknesses in developing the leadership role of party organizations.

Planning, Investment Minister Views Plans

BK0511164895 Hanoi VNA in English 1238 GMT 5 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA Nov. 5—Newly appointed Planning and Investment Minister Do Quoc Sam has stressed: "The merger of the State Planning Committee and the State Committee for Cooperation and Investment (SCCI) into the new Ministry of Planning and Investment aims to better help both foreign and domestic investors in their performance in the country."

Do Quoc Sam, who was interviewed by the Vietnamese-language weekly DAU TU NUOC NGOI (Foreign Investment), also said "from now on, the planning of foreign and domestic investment will be included in a master plan because both have a close inter- relationship to address all plans of development investment, within and without resource utilization. On the other hand, the government will consider the merger of the laws on foreign and domestic investment."

According to Minister Dau Ngoc Xuan, the former chairman of the SCCI, who is now chairman of the State Project Appraisal Council, while pending the release of the government's decision on the organisation of the Ministry of Planning and Investment, the SCCI will continue performing its work as usual, including the reception of project application, and the approval and licensing of projects.

He added "the existing laws, policies and guidelines concerning investment will still be in force. In case of changes, if any, they aim to improve the present legal documents and law system in favour of investors".

Military Party Congresses Draft Action Program

BK0711024395 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2330 GMT 5 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Last week, with a sense of positiveness, urgency, and scrupulousness, various army units held their party congresses, in which they concentrated on discussing and contributing their views on draft political reports by their high- echelon party organizations; on appraising the leadership performance of their own party committees in their previous term of office in building units that are steadfast politically, ideologically, and organizationally, and in improving the quality of efforts to build comprehensively steadfast units. On this basis, they mapped out specific measures and guidelines to be taken by the party committees in their next term of office.

The party congresses at various units also adopted a program of action from now until the end of 1996, which calls for carrying out constant and intensive indoctrination on the two strategic tasks of building and defending the fatherland; on remaining aware of the enemy's peaceful evolution schemes and tricks; on improving revolutionary vigilance; on cultivating a firm political acumen; on building clean and steadfast organizations; on profoundly understanding and satisfactorily organizing the implementation of the resolutions of the party congresses at various levels; and on launching a vigorous and widespread emulation movement to effect new changes for the better in terms of quality.

Official on Antidrug Trafficking Conference

BK1611042895 Ho Chi Minh City SAIGON GIAI PHONG in Vietnamese 28 Oct 95 pp 1, 5

[FBIS Translated Text] The Ministry of Interior convened a conference on 27 October 1995 in Hanoi to make a preliminary assessment of the antidrug trafficking campaign for the 1993-95 three-year period.

Deputy Minister of Interior Major General Le The Tiem, director of the Antidrug Trafficking Committee under the Ministry of the Interior, presented a preliminary report on the antidrug trafficking campaign over the past three years. The people's public security forces have effectively checked and prevented the transportation, sale, storage, and arrangements for illicit drug use countrywide. They have also cracked down on shipments of narcotics from Vietnam to foreign countries and discovered in time a number of major international drug trafficking cases. As of October 1995, the public security services nationwide have discovered 3,788 cases of drug trafficking and arrangements for illicit drug uses; arrested 13,284 drug dealers; and seized 4,680 kg of opium, 82.2 kg of heroin, 2,415 kg of marijuana, and hundreds of kilogramss of narcotic substances of all kinds. In October 1995 alone, the public security forces discovered 1,006 cases, arrested 2,452 drug dealers, and seized 697 kg of opium and 29.75 kg of heroin. Generally speaking, drug trafficking has constantly been on the rise in most provinces and cities countrywide. There are indications that Vietnam has become a transit point for drug trafficking from the "Golden Triangle" area to other countries in the region and the rest of the world. With regard to actions against violators, a total of 2,818 cases involving 3,794 drug dealers have been tried by the court, which sentenced eight of them to death, 19 to life imprisonment, 132 to 10-20-year terms of imprisonment, 121 to 7-10-year terms of imprisonment, and 2,832 to imprisonment for less than seven years... Generally speaking, a low percentage of drug dealers are being brought to court for trial. Over the past three years or so, only 3,794 out of 13,284 arrested drug traffickers (25 percent) have been brought to court for trial. Thus, it is imperative for the public security, court, and organ of control sectors to coordinate actions in working out very stern measures against drug traffickers.

Speaking on this occasion, Deputy Prime Minister Nguyen Khanh commended the public security, customs, and border defense forces for their great efforts on the fierce anti-drug trafficking front in serving the purposes of security maintenance and socioeconomic development. The deputy prime minister reminded responsible sectors of the need to consolidate their forces, acquire modern equipment, and provide professional training to cadres and combatants... so that they can do a better job.

Can Tho Export Processing Committee Established

BK1611121795 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 15 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The prime minister today issued a decision establishing the Can Tho Export Processing and Industrial Management Committee [CTEPIMC] to oversee the management of export processing zones and industrial complexes in Can Tho Province. The CTEPIMC will exercise its function and authority over the management of processing zones in accordance with Article 57 of the regulations on export processing zones attached to Decree No. 322-HDBT dated 18 October 1991; and the management of industrial complexes in accordance with Article 20 of the regulations on industrial complexes attached to Government Decree No. 192-CP dated 25 December 1994.

Dike Protection Law Reportedly Violated

BK1011135195 Hanoi VNA in English 1238 GMT 10 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA Nov. 10 — Three municipal officials in Hanoi are to be prosecuted for providing permits to illegally construct houses on a section of the city's flood protection dyke.

Trinh Hong Trien, Hanoi's deputy chief architect, and Nguyen Gia Ho and Le Vu Pham, also from the Municipal Chief Architect's Office, were charged with violating laws on the protection of dykes, a source said here recently.

They will be brought to trial under Article 221 of the Criminal Code.

Four other officials including Tu Mao, head of the Department for Dyke Protection and Flood and Storm Measures (of the former Ministry of Water Conservancy), Nguyen Quoc Trung, director of the city's Water Conservancy Service, Nguyen Trung Truc, head of the Hanoi Inner Dyke Protection Group and Nguyen Son Dong, head of the Tu Liem District Dyke Protection Group, will not be taken to summonsed but will be punished administratively for neglecting their duties and abusing their authority.

The Ministry of the Interior was ordered in February to carry out a thorough inquiry into the illegal building of houses on the dyke. Some 200 houses and villas have been pulled down and 150 other dwellings, partially demolished to make way for engineering works to strengthen the dyke.

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